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ALSO INSIDE

- LEISURE PAGES 19-30
- MOTORS PAGES 31-36
- PROPERTY PAGES 37-41
- JOBs PAGES 42-44
- SPORT PAGES 46-47

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Picture Richard Kaby

■ BY ED HILL

COMMUTERS from Ashford will face some of the largest rail fare increases in the county.

The new prices, to be introduced in January, will mean passengers from Ashford International Station could have to fork out up to £500 extra for a season ticket to London, and on the high-speed line almost £600 more.

The average rise on regulated fares around the county will be 7.8 per cent, but from Ashford it will be 12.7 per cent. This is because of a four-year franchise agreement which allows Southeastern to increase fares by inflation plus three per cent on the most popular routes.

Southeastern admitted this was the case, but stressed some routes would see a smaller price rise.

Charles Horton, managing director of Southeastern, said the increase in Kent would take the financial burden off the taxpayer and put it on the passenger.

"Nobody likes to see prices rise, but it is the stated policy of the Government to move more of the cost of travelling by train towards passengers and away from the general taxpayer," he said.

"There are only two sources of funding for railway journeys: taxpayer subsidy and passengers' fares.

"The amount of taxpayer subsidy we receive from the Government reduces year-on-year and to offset this we need to raise the fares to make up the difference and to minimise the burden on taxpayers."

From January 2011, a peak daily ticket on

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

SWITCH ON HAS X FACTOR

X Factor star John Adeleye performed in front of a 3,500-strong crowd before flicking the switch on the outlet's lights at Ashford Designer Outlet's Christmas launch.

Visitors also enjoyed a performance by tribute act Take That 2 and were able to explore the giant winter wonderland-themed maze, where snow will fall at 6pm everyday until Christmas Eve.

David Maddison, centre manager, said: "This year's light switch on was our biggest event yet and we're delighted so many people turned out to help us celebrate the start of the festive season."



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INSIDE THIS WEEK

NEWS.....	PAGES 2-15	PROPERTY ...	PAGES 39-41
Q&A	PAGE 8	JOBs.....	PAGES 42-44
SCHOOLS	PAGE 12	CLASSIFIED.....	PAGE 45
LETTERS.....	PAGE 14	SPORT	PAGES 46-47

INSIDE yourlifestyle



PAGES 18-20

LEISURE

PAGE 22

STYLE

PAGE 24

WEATHER

PAGE 25

COMPETITION

PAGE 26

CINEMA/TV

PAGE 28

MUSIC/TRAVEL

PAGES 29-38

MOTORING

SEE OUR SISTER PAPERS KENT ON SUNDAY AND THE SATURDAY EDITION FOR ALL THE WEEKEND'S COUNTY NEWS AND SPORT

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CONCERN: Wyvern special school has two sites in Ashford, primary and secondary

KCC investigates as special school staff suspended

■ BY ED HILL

THREE members of staff have been suspended after serious allegations were made by a parent of a child at the Wyvern School.

An investigation is now being carried out under the terms of the Kent and Medway safeguarding children procedures.

A Kent County Council official said: "We are taking the allegations very seriously. This investigation is ongoing and we are unable to comment further at this time."

KCC would not confirm whether the members of staff were teachers, nor discuss their exact roles at the special school.

The school has sent a letter in an attempt to reassure parents.

In the statement on the school's website, head of education Nick Onslow said: "Allegations were made against members of Wyvern staff. In such circumstances staff can be suspended during investigations, as was the case at the Wyvern School."

"This is not proof that allegations are true but a way of protecting all concerned. A strategy group of professionals was formed, strategy

meetings have taken place, and a senior social worker and police officer have taken statements.

"The local education authority is continuing its investigation. The investigation may take time and to protect the employment rights of the staff involved no further information on these matters can be disclosed until a decision is reached."

Wyvern School has two sites, one for primary age children in Clockhouse, and the other for secondary children, just off the Great Chart bypass.

Mr Onslow added: "Parents are assured the school is cooperating fully with the investigation and has fully supported other professionals in their work to date."

"The multi-agency strategy meetings have made very carefully considered decisions relating to any risk. Staff will only return to school if the investigation concludes that children in Wyvern would continue to be safe. Under these circumstances the school is under the spotlight and as such safeguarding and child protection procedures are being monitored very closely."

He said senior staff had spent a greater proportion of their time in classrooms and around the school to ensure children are "safe, cared for and learning".

Rail fares on the rise

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE
the high-speed service to London will rise from £49.50 to £55.80.

An annual season ticket from Ashford International will see an increase of £488 to £4,328 for a season ticket on the mainline route or a £584 rise to £5,192 on the high-speed service.

Tunde Olatunji, of rail watchdog Passenger Focus, said it was disappointing to see Southeastern put fares up by so much.

He said: "Passengers will have to dig deep this January during very difficult economic times. This level of price rises puts the spotlight on Southeastern's performance and value for money."

For such prices passengers will rightfully expect punctual, clean trains with a reasonable chance of getting a seat. Passenger Focus will be monitoring this closely."

Last month, a report by the public accounts committee highlighted the issues with Southeastern's franchise, where passengers are forced to pay premium fares to support the high-speed service which does not stop at every station.

On Thursday, last week, transport secretary Philip Hammond announced the Government would be investing £8 billion in the network for new carriages to ease overcrowding and electrification of some lines. Most of this money will be going to the Thameslink service and Crossrail.

Regeneration gain

STANHOPE featured in the BBC Politics Show last week.

The show focused on the housing situation in Britain and the live broadcast took place in one of the estate's new homes. Stanhope is one of the largest regeneration projects in the South East.

The most recent phase to be completed is Frinsted Gardens. Moat, the housing association involved in the project, offers homes there as part of the Government's HomeBuy part buy/part rent scheme. A Christmas open day is planned at Frinsted Gardens on Saturday for people looking for a new affordable home.

We spotted Pudsey

STAFF at Benenden Hospital, near Tenterden, raised £500 for Children in Need.

Pudsey Bear took a tour of the hospital and staff wore as many spots as they could. They also sold cakes to raise money for the BBC appeal.

Dementia home's 90 jobs boost



MODERN CARE: Artist's view of how Warren Court will look

A LEADING private healthcare company is looking to recruit 90 staff for its dementia care home in Ashford.

Bupa wants staff for its Warren Lodge home, due to open in March, next year. The £5 million flagship building has been designed with new and unique features for people living with the condition.

Rhona McLeod, regional director of the company, said: "We have already received applications from some very capable people. We're on the lookout for applicants who are committed and confident to help us deliver high standards of care."

Bupa says it hopes to appoint 30 people before Christmas, filling roles such as senior nurses, nurses, care and support staff, and will continue to recruit throughout 2011.

Warren Lodge will care for up to 64

people. Residents will benefit from specialist facilities and features including memory triggers to aid connections with the past, reminiscence areas and a specially designed layout to make life easier and less stressful.

Graham Stokes, director of dementia care, said: "Bupa aims to deliver quality for residents living with dementia. Not simply quality of care

but a quality of life, and we value staff who give themselves to achieve this, by putting the person first and dementia second."

Seventy per cent of Bupa dementia residents are funded by the state.

Information about jobs at Warren Lodge can be found by visiting www.bupa.co.uk/individuals/care-homes/care-home-careers.

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Olympic garden plants will come from Wye

Nursery to grow 60,000 plants

■ BY ED HILL

PLANTS for the London Olympics landmark riverside park are being grown at a leading nursery business in Wye.

Palmstead nursery is growing 60,000 plants, grasses, herbs and flowers for the Olympic Park Garden.

The riverside park will stretch for half a mile between the Aquatics centre and the Olympic Stadium on land that has been cleared of railway sidings contamination and Japanese knotweed.

The company has had to find the plants from all four corners of the world and many of the new plants will be unfamiliar to British gardeners.

They include hundreds of South African plants grown from a small collection in Ireland, rare white chrysanthemums as well as tall Asian lilies and the compass plant used by Native Americans to navigate the prairies and an unusual flowering onion from Europe.

On Friday, chairman of the Olympic Delivery Authority John Armitt visited the nursery along with Ashford's MP Damian Green.

Mr Armitt said: "The 2012 Garden will create



GROWING ENTHUSIASM: John Armitt and Damian Green are shown plants being grown for the 2012 Olympic garden

a colourful festival atmosphere right at the entrance to the Olympic Park during and after the games. It will celebrate Britain's passion for gardens and plant collection with plants from across the world. This will be part of the Olympics legacy and should endure for at least 50 years."

Damian Green said many local companies had approached him when Britain won the Olympic bid hoping they would get contracts to grow the plants that would be needed.

The company which employs 45 staff had to go through a two-year online bidding process before getting the opportunity to tender for the contract. It's recently invested in new glasshouses to

create 10 acres of protected growing area.

He said: "This shows how British companies from all sectors will benefit from the Olympic and Paralympic Games. Palmstead Nurseries have been innovative and enterprising in winning the contract and I am delighted an Ashford firm will be helping London look at its best for the Games."

"There will also be other opportunities for local business as the Olympics approaches such as tourism."

Nick Costell marketing and sales manager for Palmstead said: "Everyone here is extremely excited and enthusiastic to be making a contribution towards the team that is creating the Olympic Park."



VISION: Grazing land could look like this soon

Nature park and cycleway at Asda

THE council has earmarked a piece of land that could be used as part of a Willesborough Dykes Nature Park in the future.

The land, near the Kimberley Way ASDA, is also adjacent to a site that could be developed as a hotel. If the 100 bed hotel gets planning permission the parcel of land currently owned by the Ashford Investor Limited Partnership will be passed to the council for £1.

The two hectares of grazing land will be incorporated with a site already owned by Ashford council. It could also become part of the Greenway Cycle Path approved by the planning committee in April 28 this year.

Cycle route

The acquisition is part of the council's long-term plans to create a cycle route to Park Farm.

In the report to the council Cllr Bernard Heyes, portfolio holder for cultural services, said: "The adoption of this parcel of land for a nominal sum will provide the council with an important asset that will contribute to the future delivery of the Willesborough Dykes Nature Park as set out in the LDF Core Strategy. The adoption of this parcel of land will also provide the council with access to its existing land holding from Romney Marsh Road."

Duo caught on stealing spree

TWO Zimbabwean thieves systematically shoplifted along Canterbury High Street during a stealing spree which netted goods worth more than £1,200.

Gift Denenga, 26, and Cynthia Manyati, 31, of The Limes, Kingsnorth, near Ashford, stole suitcases from Marks and Spencer before stealing clothes.

Then they went onto BHS and Fenwicks before store detectives spotted them in Debenhams.

Denenga admitted three theft charges at Canterbury Magistrates Court while Manyati admitted two.

Theresa Ruiz, prosecuting, said store detectives became suspicious when they saw clothes draped over suitcases in Debenhams' shoe department.

Manyati was challenged and claimed she was bringing clothes back for a refund.

When suitcases were checked 49 items still had security tags on them. They told staff they'd bought the items but hadn't kept receipts.

Officers found a set of pliers in Denenga's handbag which were to be used to get the tags off. Robin Jackson, defending, said Denenga was an asylum seeker who couldn't get money so stole clothes for her own use.

Manyati is a care worker.

The case is adjourned until December 17.

No murder conviction for killer boyfriend

A DRUNK who killed his partner by kicking her in the stomach as she was lying on the ground has been acquitted of murder.

Steven Brooker, 42, from Waterman House, Ashford, was arrested soon after Susie Smith was found with injuries in the walkway between Godfrey Walk and Christchurch Road on April 29 this year.

The mother of six later died of internal injuries at the William Harvey Hospital.

The jury was told Brooker had already pleaded guilty to manslaughter but the Crown decided to continue with the murder trial.

During the seven day hearing at Maidstone Crown Court the jury had to decide if Brooker, a long term alcoholic who had drunk heavily on the day, had intended to kill Ms Smith, 50, or cause her grievous bodily harm.

The couple had been together for three and half years and it was a stormy relationship in which alcohol was a major factor.

The prosecution alleged a violent argument had begun inside the couple's flat spreading out into the alleyway.

The jury also heard Brooker had thrown his mobile phone into a nearby electricity substation soon after



DEATH SCENE: The alley where Susie Smith was found with injuries she later died from

he had made an emergency call.

However, the defence argued the evidence produced by the crown did not show he had carried out any sustained attack on her. The only violence that could be proven was the single kick to the stomach.

The jury of seven women and five men took four hours to acquit Brooker of murder. They decided despite the violence and tirade of verbal abuse he subjected her to he did not intend it would lead to her death.

Brooker is still in custody awaiting sentencing.

Judge Philip Statman adjourned the case for sentencing on December 15 and said: "I have to consider imprisonment for public protection and issues of dangerousness in a case of manslaughter."

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ENDANGERED: Up to ten red-tailed Amazon parrots were among the birds stolen by criminals Pitts and Collins

Exotic parrot thieves are now jail birds

TWO men who attempted to steal a rare parrot worth £750 from Ashford have been jailed for a string of similar crimes around the country.

Trevor Pitts, 36, and James Collins, 34, travelled from South Yorkshire in hired vans to carry out the crimes in 2008.

The court heard the pair stole 17 parrots worth up to £130,000 from aviaries at an isolated farm near Wisbech in Cambridge on September 2008.

On their trips they also carried out the unsuccessful burglary at the property in Ashford and planned to target other rural properties where parrots were bred in Aylsham and Norfolk.

They were arrested near the home of a Suffolk dog breeder in November the same year.

The parrots, including ten Red-tailed Amazons, are extremely rare in the wild and in captivity.

Inquiries with the hire firm in Sheffield and sat nav evidence also revealed the vans had covered distances fitting the locations in Cambridgeshire, Suffolk and Kent.

■ BY ED HILL

The two men pleaded guilty to the crimes at Cambridge Crown Court. Pitts was jailed for 33 months and Collins was jailed for 40 months.

Detective Sergeant Dave York, who led the investigation, said: "Some of the red-tailed Amazons are effectively priceless because there are so few left in the world."

"We are still making enquiries in an attempt to trace these birds so I would appeal to anyone with any information about their whereabouts to contact Cambridgeshire police."

John Hayward, co-ordinator for the National Theft Register for Endangered Species, said: "This case was without doubt one of the most significant investigations in recent years involving the theft of so many highly endangered exotic birds. "The criminal activity not only resulted in so many endangered parrots being stolen but also the devastation of many breeding programmes."

"Many of these parrots are extremely rare in the wild and those that are breeding in captivity are vital to the continuance of the species."

Police hunt for missing Paul

POLICE are looking for a man who has been missing from his home in Ashford since November 22.

Paul Ledger, age 33, was last seen on Monday. The last contact he had with close family was on November 18, and they say his disappearance is out of character.

Mr Ledger is described as white, of medium build, with brown eyes and brown hair. The last time he was seen he was wearing brown boots, blue jeans, and a navy blue jacket with a white stripe down the sleeves.

If you have information regarding his whereabouts contact police on 01622 690690 or you can ring the Missing Persons Hotline on 0500 700 700.



MISSING FOR NINE DAYS: Paul Ledger

yourashford NEWS IN BRIEF

Juniors FC's new kit

UNDER sevens at Kennington Juniors FC now have a new jacket to keep warm in the winter.

The outfits came after a donation from the BMI Chaucer Hospital in Canterbury.

The new training jackets were given for every member of the team plus a soft hand puppet as an extra surprise.

Under seven Red Team Manager Martin Boer said: "We are really very grateful. The tops are fantastic and give the team a real edge over their competitors. They look very professional. The parents are grateful and I have received some kind comments. Gifts like this are so important to teams like ours as it really helps to spur the guys on and helps nurture the talent of the future."

Richard Coggings, from the Chaucer Hospital, said: "For us it's a real opportunity to reach out to our community and help budding football stars."



DECISION: Young girl picks her choice for the new park

Singleton's new park

A NATURAL open meadow with adventurous ways to keep fit was the most popular choice for a new park in Singleton.

The results came after an exhibition was held at the Environment Centre so residents could help choose the features, equipment and designs.

The park would transform approximately half of the empty green land opposite John Wesley Primary School.

More than 80 people examined two giant posters showing pictures of a wide range of possible equipment and landscaping.

The most popular choices were for an informal meadow layout with a wooden boundary with seating made from natural materials. There was also interest in creating an ecological wetland for educational use and a sports facility.

Ashford council also took the consultation to local schools and youth club to get feedback.

The most popular choices will be used to form the basis of the new park's design. The results will be fed back to residents at a follow up event in February.

Snow, music and Santa!

There's so much to see at County Square, Ashford.

Magical woodland

See the magical woodland display with its elves cottage and delightful animated characters, located in the lower mall.

Meet Santa!

Take a visit to meet Santa in Debenhams throughout the seasonal period. Check our website or with Debenhams for dates and times.

Christmas music

Every weekend during December a variety of choirs will be performing round the Christmas tree.

Snow Globe fun!

For one weekend only on 4th and 5th December, you'll see a Giant Snow Globe in the main square. Bring your friends or family along, step inside and have a picture taken in the snow! The 6x9 photo, which will cost £10, will be housed in a custom frame and you can have extra copies at a reduced rate. It's a great present idea!



To find out more about Christmas at County Square visit www.countysquareshoppingcentre.com



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Two re-bailed in farmer murder

TWO men from Ashford arrested in connection with the murder of a Sussex farmer have been re-bailed.

Julian Gardner, 53, was found at Bush Barn Farm, off the A21 north of Robertsbridge, on October 11. Detectives investigating his death believe it was a burglary that went tragically wrong.

Police suspect Mr Gardner disturbed an unknown number of people in the early hours of the morning trying to break into outbuildings where he ran an agricultural and car repair business.

Arrested

Both the 40-year-old and 30-year-old men from Ashford will now have to present themselves to police on January 17.

Three other men from Ashford have also been arrested as part of the police investigation along with a woman from the borough who was arrested for assisting an offender. They have also been bailed until the New Year.

Seven people have now been arrested in connection with the death including one from North Wales. This week a 22-year-old man from Tunbridge Wells was questioned by police.

DCI Adam Hibbert from the Sussex major crime branch, who is leading the investigation, said: "The latest arrest is part of a complex and ongoing investigation and I cannot discount further arrests being made in the future.

"I would appeal to anyone who has information in relation to the death of Julian Gardner to come forward. They should contact detectives on 0845 60 70 999 or the independent charity Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111."

Survey reveals we're well cared for in east Kent

PATIENTS living in east Kent get the best care in the country according to a survey of the NHS.

The East Kent Hospitals University NHS Foundation Trust, which runs The William Harvey Hospital, Kent and Canterbury Hospital, the Queen Mother Hospital in Margate, Buckland Hospital in Dover and the Royal Victoria in Folkestone came top of the Dr Foster survey.

The study, backed by Imperial College London and the Department of Health, measures the performance of NHS trusts and their hospitals around the country. Each year it looks at areas of patient care such as: preventing premature death, quality of life for people with long term conditions and recovery from ill health or surgery. It also measures patient's experiences of their care.

One of the key areas the survey looked at is what is known as the Hospital Standardised Mortality Ratio (HSMR).

This is a broad measure across all activities of a hospital where the risk of death is significant.

■ BY ED HILL

The average score for hospitals is 100. The East Kent Trust was given a score of 79, one of the lowest in the country.

Nineteen trusts around the country had a score higher than 100 meaning their death rate was higher than expected.

Other areas of health care considered as a good indicator of a hospital's performance include stroke care, orthopaedics, urology and patient safety.

The report said the trust had performed well across all criteria especially as it was one of the largest in the country serving 750,000 people.

It also praised it for employing new technology such as Telemedicine, which now meant people had a round-the-clock service. It also had a rapid response for scans when needed by patients and had introduced other innovations such as the specialist heart attack centre at the William Harvey which serves the whole of the county.

Stuart Bain, chief executive of the trust, said: "The success of the trust can be put down to a



LATEST TECHNOLOGY: East Kent Hospital Trust was also praised for employing new technology offering better care

combination of very high ambition by the board, good planning, and the dedication of the 7,000 staff who always go the extra mile for their patients.

"Safety and effectiveness have been the key drivers in directing our investment in service change and this is reflected in our exceptionally low HSMR and good infection prevention rates."

Roger Taylor, director of research at Dr Foster, said the latest results showed the performance across the NHS was generally getting better.

He said: "Safety standards are improving, mortality rates are falling, the variation between the best and the worst is getting less."

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QUESTION & ANSWER

DAVID ROBERT



Q & A

David Robert, Sustrans Bike It officer for Ashford and Canterbury talks to **Ed Hill** about the lifestyle choice people can make to travel by bike, creating a cleaner, healthier environment for the whole community

Q Can you explain what the Sustrans charity does?

A We're a leading UK charity enabling people to travel by foot, bike or public transport for more of the journeys we make every day. We work with families, communities, policy-makers and partner organisations so that people are able to choose healthier, cleaner and cheaper journeys, with better places and spaces to move through and live in. To find out more about Sustrans and how you can become a Sustrans supporter visit or call: www.sustrans.org.uk 0845 113 0065.

Q How did your own interest in cycling begin?

A I have been on a bike as far back as I can remember – I often think I was born on two wheels. I cycled to school, to university and have always used a bike to travel to work. As a child it was my own means of transportation, giving me independence. As an adult it is the cheapest and healthiest way to get around.

Q When did you first become the Sustrans Bike It officer and what does the role involve?

A I started in April 2008. I work directly with schools, teachers, children and parents to encourage children to get to school under their own steam. I organise events, activities and classroom sessions to give children the skills and confidence to cycle to school. I work to achieve positive and long-lasting changes in school com-

munities' travel behaviour by supporting schools to make a case for cycling in their travel plans, supporting cycling champions and demonstrating that cycling is a popular choice amongst children and their parents/carers. A Sustrans Bike It officer also helps schools find funding and suppliers for cycle storage, ensures schools receive cycle training and works with the local community to find safe cycling routes.

Q What would you say to a parent who might be concerned about their child cycling on the roads?

A Is a road journey always necessary? There are many cycle paths out there. When road journeys are required parents can cycle with children until they are confident to cycle without adults. Make sure children are signed up for Bikeability Road training in Years 5 and 6. In Ashford this can be extended to parents too. And make sure bikes are roadworthy and lights and hi-viz clothing are used when required.

Q How many schools in the area have signed up for the scheme? How do more get involved?

A I have twenty four schools in total: seventeen in Ashford and seven in Canterbury.

Q What would you say are the major issues that prevent more people from cycling?

A Really just a lack of desire or lack of habit. Once you've done it you realise how easy, fun and healthy it can be. People present many obstacles as excuses: the weather, lack of bike,

roads being too dangerous, carrying too much stuff, no safe place to lock a bike, arriving at work sweaty. All of these can be overcome with a minimum of expense and effort, especially if you're linked to a Sustrans Bike It School where support and free training may be available.

Q What do you think of electric assisted bikes?

A If they get people on bikes, then great. The positive thing is you can pedal too. You usually find that as people get more used to cycling they slip into electric mode less and less. But I appreciate for some people the motor helps them with the hills. It's all bike travel, and that's what counts

Q What events do you have coming up?

A There are a couple of Christmas competitions running at the moment. There is a virtual bike race to Lapland where every ride to school by children, parents and staff counts as miles. There is also a national competition to design an illustrated Bike It resolution for the New Year. Both have bikes to be won as prizes.

Q Did you have any childhood ambitions that were never fulfilled?

A I still haven't ridden John O'Groats to Lands End. I have no doubts that I can do the 800 miles – I just have to find the time as I'm so busy in schools at the moment.

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Adding to Scouts' mountain of cash



QUIDS IN: Simon Blake and Scout leader Mike Cullen with Cub Christian Horgan, Scout Rebecca Hawkins and Beaver Nathan Blake

A SCOUT group's fundraising campaign has been boosted by two businessmen who scaled Ben Nevis.

Simon Blake and Darren Black, from Kennington, topped the UK's highest mountain for the 1st Kennington Scouts' new building fund.

The pair, who run building company Wealden Woodstyle, raised £900. The cheque was handed to Scout leader Mike Cullen. The fund stands at £216,000 and the group is planning a big new year push to reach the £300,000 needed so work can start by March, 2011.

Mr Blake's grandfather, Edgar Blake, provided the group with its first home, an old Nissen hut that he moved to Kennington from a house in Wye. Mr Blake's son Nathan who is a Beaver, joined his father at the presentation. Visit www.justgiving.com/wealdenwoodstylebennevis2010 to contribute.

Three-year delay to park and ride SmartLink plan

■ BY ED HILL

A PARK and ride scheme for Ashford will be delayed for at least three years, according to the borough council's latest report.

The car park at Drovers roundabout would have been part of the SmartLink bus scheme. However, the report says it is not worth applying for planning permission until at least 2014.

SmartLink, with its park and ride scheme, is one of two transport schemes hit by Government cuts announced in October. The other is junction 10a on the M20.

Both are seen as crucial to the town's growth plans. The future of the projects will be discussed by the joint transportation board next week.

Smartlink was designed to deliver a modern, rapid transport system. Originally, construction work on the £28.5 million first phase was planned for 2012 to help develop the town centre. But it looks as if changes in how such schemes will be funded mean it will now be put on hold.

The coalition Government wants more money for such schemes to come from private business, through local enterprise partnerships.

The report says the council should look for alternatives in the meantime, such as a 'Smartlink Lite' scheme using buses provided by Stagecoach. Work on junction 10a had been



SLOW PROGRESS: Two key transport schemes – SmartLink park and ride and the junction 10a roundabout – are on hold

planned to begin in 2013 and be completed by 2015. The roundabout is seen as key in enabling housing development in Sevington, Waterbrook, Cheeseman's Green and the Newtown railway works.

However, after the Government's spending review in October, the roundabout, which could cost as much as £90m, has been put on hold for five years.

The council is eager for the junction to go ahead so developers will still be confident of investing in Ashford.

In the report for board members, the council

says it has revised figures on the estimated numbers of houses and jobs now expected, due to the downturn, so the Highways Agency can look at the project again.

Two-thirds of the funding for the scheme had been expected to come from the Department of Transport, with the rest provided by the Homes and Communities Agency.

Borough council leader Cllr Peter Wood has written to the Secretary of State for Transport seeking an urgent meeting to discuss how the scheme can proceed and to find the best way to fund it.

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TENTERDEN TOWN



The event is organised by the Tenterden and District Chamber of Commerce and Tenterden Improved.

From 4pm onwards car parks in the town will be free.

Other attractions include a charity spit roast at Chesterton Humberts, The Lions Club Santa Sleigh, local dance schools and Christmas choirs from Homewood School and the Tuesdays Community Singing group on the Town Hall balcony overlooking the High Street.

St Mildred's Church will be open from 6pm - 8pm during the late night Christmas shopping evening. The congregation will be offering visitors mulled Pimms with mince pies and sausage rolls and the church choir will sing carols to keep them entertained.

For more details go to www.tenterdentown.co.uk/what-s-on/christmas-festival/

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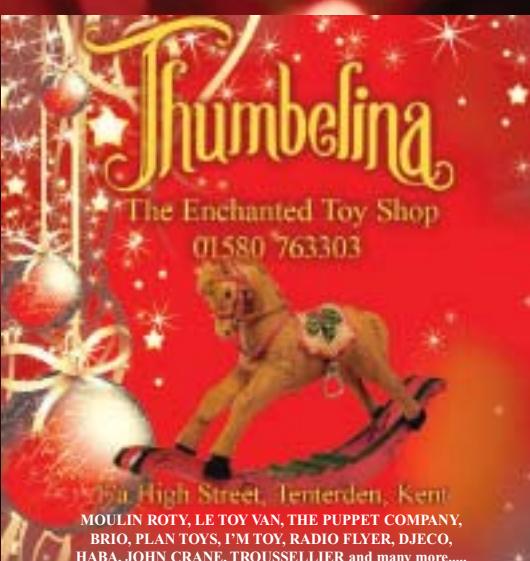
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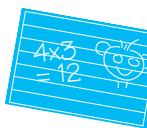
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**BREAK TIME****Christmas came early in Aldington**

ALDINGTON Primary School held its Christmas bazaar last Friday.

Children and parents enjoyed Christmas attractions such as Santa's grotto, mulled wine and a decorated Christmas cake raffle.

There was also a gift room where children could buy presents for their parents, family or carer and have them gift-wrapped.

Sally Newall, from the Parents Teachers and Friends Association, said: "The bazaar is one of our biggest fund-raisers helping to keep providing the school with those extras that aren't statutory funded."

For more information about Aldington School see www.aldington.kent.sch.uk.

It's time to apply for primary places

IS your child due to start primary school in September 2011?

Applications for primary school places can be made until January 15, 2011.

The easiest way to apply is online. Last year more than 25,000 families did just that. See www.kent.gov.uk/ola.

Kent County Council says schools are incredibly popular and it receives many more applications than places.

There were 14,920 applications for a primary school place starting in September 2010. On offer day, the majority of pupils, 88 per cent, were given their first choice of school. Almost 96 per cent were offered a place at one of their three choices.

SEND your schools news and pictures to yourashford@kosmedia.co.uk. You can also upload your video clips of schools events on to www.yourkenttv.co.uk

Kids graduate into world of learning at Homewood**■ BY ED HILL**

HOMEWOOD School in Tenterden is now one of the learning hubs for the Kent Children's University.

The scheme offers courses after normal school time in a range of subjects from drama and cookery to computing and creative arts.

As a learning hub, Homewood runs and coordinates courses for children aged seven to 14 from other schools in the area.

Sessions are normally held during school holidays or on Saturday mornings.

The two other hub schools in the scheme are Canterbury High and Sittingbourne Community College.

Students at the university, which is run by Kent County Council, get to graduate at the end of the year. They don robes and mortarboards for their graduation ceremony held in July.

Children can also join the university's Learning Destinations programme. The scheme offers the chance to visit tourist attractions and complete activity packs. Each attraction or activity has a number of credits allocated to it and when a child has gained enough credits they receive Kent Children's University certificates.

Sarah Hohler, cabinet member for education, at the KCC said: "All Kent County Council schools are invited to join the university. Kent Children's University is one of the longest established children's universities in the country.

The graduation ceremony held this year was very enjoyable for everyone involved.



CEREMONY: Students at the university get to graduate at the end of the year wearing robes and mortarboards

Each of these young people should feel very proud of their achievements. They have discovered that learning is an enjoyable activity. I hope they continue to learn with us, especially now we have launched the Learning Destinations programme across the county.

"Learning Destinations is an exciting opportunity for children and families to take part in informal learning at a number of top Kent

attractions. The scheme is offered not only in Kent, but across the UK, so stamps can be earned on holiday as well as after school."

Kent Children's University is funded by the grant KCC receives from government and school contributions. It has been operating in the county since 1996.

For more information visit www.kent.gov.uk/kcu.

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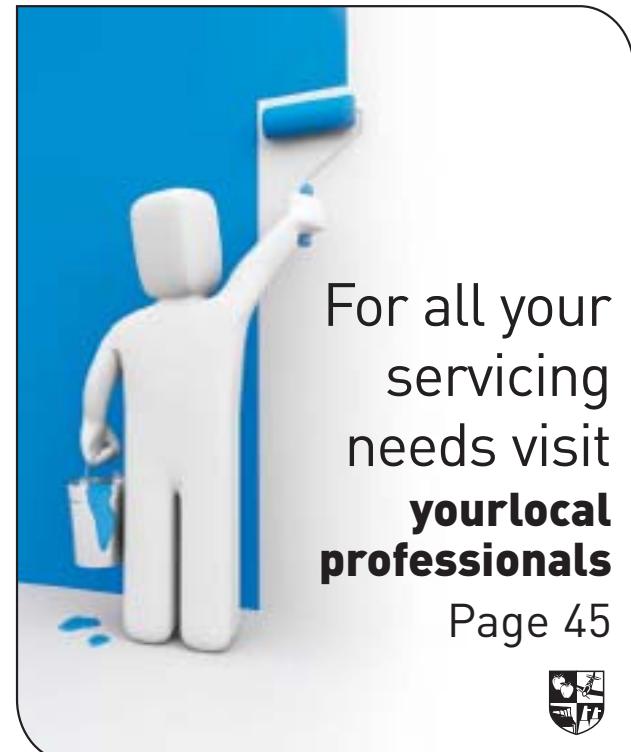
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'Dartford toll charges won't be scrapped'

■ BY STEVE KNIGHT

DARTFORD crossing toll charges will remain "for the foreseeable future" after the Government admitted it cannot do without the £17 million annual income they provide.

Last month it was announced the cost of using the crossing may rise to £2.50 for car drivers by 2012, despite motorists being promised the levy would be scrapped once the cost of building the QEII Bridge had been met.

But during a Commons debate on congestion at the crossing this week, transport minister Mike Penning said the removal of the tolls was not an option.

He said: "We are in really difficult economic times, and the £17m-a-year gross revenue the tolls take in is an important part of the money available for the infrastructure and transport network for the whole country."

But Mr Penning did reiterate the Government's commitment to reduce congestion and pollution at the crossing by removing the barriers and by looking into the possible construction of a third Thames crossing.

He said that most businesses would rather pay an extra 50p if it meant their drivers

were no longer being caught up in huge tailbacks.

"The toll booths are what is really holding up the traffic," he added. "The delays are being caused by people trying to find change, not realising they have to pay, or losing their DART-Tag."

"If we remove the toll booths altogether so people can drive across the bridge or through the tunnels, that delay will be removed."

"The London congestion charge uses vehicle number plate recognition, and it works well. We intend to use that technology to remove the barriers at the north and south of the crossing."

Last Tuesday's debate was secured by Dartford Tory MP Gareth Johnson, who said: "We have recently had an announcement that the price of the tolls should be increased. I cannot accept that extra levy on the motorist, who is feeling fairly beleaguered in this particular part of the country."

"The congestion at the Dartford crossing has united Dartford against the current toll booths system. Local people despise the impact it has had on the area, as we have had nothing but misery, congestion and pollution as a result."

Meanwhile, the transport minister revealed during the debate that it was unlikely the DART-Tag residents' discount scheme would be extended to areas outside of Dartford.

Cutting back the competition

SPORTS leaders have launched an attack on the Government for scrapping school sports funding as thousands of campaigners demand ministers rethink the move.

Kent representatives from the Schools Sports Partnerships (SSP) questioned what kind of message was being sent to the international community ahead of the Olympics and World Cup 2018 bid by cutting funding for the SSP programme.

The globally-acclaimed project encourages competitive opportunities within schools and has seen the number of Kent students taking part in sport twice a week soar.

But the national programme has become one of the many casualties of Government's spending cuts, with plans to axe its entire £162 million funding.

Thousands of students and staff at the county's schools have thrown their weight behind a campaign to save the scheme by signing a petition urging ministers to rethink proposals.

It will be handed in to education secretary Michael Gove on Monday, December 6.



HITTING BACK: Sports leaders slam the Government for sport funds cuts

Mr La Rossignol said just recently 850 pupils from 38 different schools ran in a cross-country event at Leeds Castle.

"Schools can't organise big events like that, they don't have the time or money," he said.

A mass campaign has been launched by the Thanet SSP and thousands of people in the area have signed a petition against the cuts.

Junior sports leader Paul Ayers, from Hartsdown College in Margate, said: "The Government wants more young people to get involved with sports and as youth leaders we are working hard to achieve this – and then it changes the rules by saying it is going to cut such a fantastic scheme."

But sports minister Hugh Robertson, MP for Faversham and Mid-Kent, defended the Government's decision, saying: "I understand that nobody wants to see any money cut from school sport. However, we have to deal with the national economic crisis that we have inherited which is costing the country £120 million in debt interest payments every day."

"Government expects this country to do well at a high level across a range of different sports, but how can we with these cuts?" he said.

"I can't see how the country is expected to win the World Cup bid when competitive sport at grassroots level is cut.

"The cuts will only mean more spent on the NHS in a few years time dealing with obesity and heart disease."

Uni staff back protests

LECTURERS from the University of Kent voiced their support for the second wave of student protests held last week.

Professor of urban studies Phil Hubbard and employment relations expert Dr Samantha Lynch were among 295 scholars who spoke out over planned tuition fee increases in a letter to the *Guardian* newspaper.

It read: "We support the day of protest last Wednesday following the magnificent demonstration by university and school students and by university staff on November 10."

"We are utterly opposed to the destruction of broad-based, critical education and its replacement by education for the market that is enshrined in the Browne report."

"We are defending not just our jobs but the values which brought us into higher education,

reflecting the wider significance of education to society."

About 10,000 students took part in a series of marches and gatherings across the country on Wednesday, December 24, but violence flared for the second time in a fortnight.

The young people are angry that from 2012 universities will be able to charge tuition fees of up to £9,000 – almost three times more than the current cap.

The letter continues: "The planned increase in fees means the effective removal of higher education for working people. The coalition has no mandate for its ideologically driven class rule – the anger of students is no surprise."

"We intend to fight them to defend social science, humanities and the arts, and to protect higher and further education for all."



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your letters

YOUR LETTERS

ID cards battle over, but the war goes on

ID CARDS are being scrapped, and with them the National Identity Register and the ContactPoint Children's database – a success for NO2ID.

I would like to publicly thank all those who supported and helped with our campaign – not just in my own branch but across East and Mid-Kent.

So, is it all over? No. A bureaucratic obsession with ID and information sharing goes on, and so do we. Your finances, your travel by plane or car, who you call and email, soon your medical records ... all are starting to be captured and made available for "mining".

A 2009 report looked at 46 big government database projects. It found more than half damage personal privacy or create other risks. Only two of those have since been cancelled.

We define the database state as the trend to manage society by collecting data, mass surveillance, an authoritarian oversight of all aspects of our lives. NO2ID continues to campaign against state identity management and the abuse of personal information, and for individual control of what is private.

Our campaigns concern a proposed centralised electoral register with local authority powers to cross-match data to track those who don't register, medical confidentiality and the NHS Spine (not yet rolled out in Kent; but coming), tracking travellers through e-passports and e-Borders, abuse of DNA records, snooping on internet and telephone use, and police logging of all car journeys using ANPR cameras.

The government needs some information to work, but they always take and use much more than they need. You may have to deal with them, but you can't say what they can do with that data.

In a few years it has become "normal" to be asked to provide ID, proof of address or other details by people who don't need them. More is officially gathered, cross-checked, passed on – even to other countries.

You should have the right to decide who knows what about you. "We know where you live" is an old threat. The database state means state control of personal identity – with or without ID cards.

Ian Taylor
NO2ID Local Group Co-ordinator (Dover)

This year give a gift to help sick pets

THIS Christmas, millions of us will spend precious time and money choosing pointless gifts for people who don't really want them.

Instead of following this crazy and costly routine, why not surprise someone instead with a much-needed gift in aid of poorly pets?

Vet charity PDSA has hundreds

Tina Sleigh,
Trading Manager
PDSA Head Office

Foreign truckers are just doing their job

READING Roger Gale MP's letter about foreign trucks using our roads, I found it very distasteful.

Do British truckers run back from Europe with empty fuel tanks so they can purchase some of the

Would he suggest similar



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We don't really need to listen to Labour leader Ed Miliband for four years, says Gary Wright



LABOUR leader Ed Miliband chose Gillingham as the place to convince the country he is the man who can build a party people will want to vote for again.

I was surprised he chose Kent. No one could see the county as a Labour stronghold, but by the same token it's counties like Kent where he will have to convince people he has something to offer.

At the moment it really doesn't matter what Labour says it would do on this, or what its policy is on that – the party isn't in power, so why should anyone listen?

Red, as he's affectionately known, has other problems too. The mess inherited by Cameron and Clegg was bigger than anyone could have imagined.

So, criticism by Ed and his shadow cabinet is easily overcome: Labour would have had to do the same or it's Labour's fault anyway.

My gut feeling is the party is over-reacting to its General Election loss with its new-found taste for humble pie, admissions of how terrible and arrogant it became and beating itself up to win our love again.

It's pretty simple really.

Firstly, people had had enough of Gordon Brown. Despite being the man who found a way through the banking crisis for world leaders, he was also responsible for getting Britain too deeply into the mess in the run up to it. Plus he wasn't good on telly and seemed a bit of an angry bully off it.

Secondly, people had had enough of Labour in power. It was time for change.

Ed wants to chuck out everything and start with a clean sheet, which includes keeping the 50p tax rate for the wealthy; marching with students on Whitehall (unless he's doing something else) and supporting middle income workers earning between £16,000 and £40,000. Or maybe £50,000, he's not too sure yet.

Instead of dumping New Labour ideals (socialism no, market economy yes), Ed might be able to avoid getting himself in such a mess by simply taking the best of what he already has.

It is no use returning to the Punch and Judy politics of the Thatcher years. Labour is in Opposition. Ed says it will take two years to make his party electable, so get on with scrutinising what the Coalition does and highlighting its weaknesses. Better still, ensure your MP's represent constituents properly – which is their job, after all – that's the way to get re-elected.

Ed arrived in Gillingham on Saturday promising to listen. Five days before, he'd told MPs being in opposition was "crap". I suspect they'll get used to it soon enough though and it may not be so "crap" for us.

His biggest personal worry is big brother David, still smarting from losing the leadership race. He has been thanking everyone who did support him. A cynic might suggest the underlying message is: 'I hope I can count on you next time'.

But most of us don't need to listen to Ed until four years' time... when the next General Election is due.

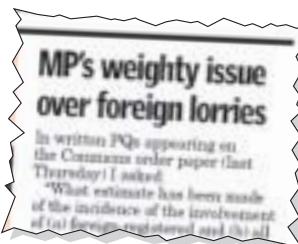
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of 'virtual gifts' for sale this Christmas, and they are the perfect gift choice for someone in your life who loves animals. By buying a gift, you help care for sick and injured pets across the UK. They are so simple to buy and once you've chosen your virtual present you can personalise an attractive greetings card too.

There's a wide range of gifts starting from as little as £13, which would pay for over 25 metres of bandages, right up to £1,800, which would buy an operating table.

To browse the full range of presents available, visit www.wellvettedgifts.co.uk, but hurry – the last order date is 20 December.

As a charity, we receive no government or lottery funding for our PetAid services, so we rely on the generosity of animal lovers to help raise the £50 million needed to care for poorly pets each year, so please help if you can.



costliest diesel in Europe? No they do not, so why should foreign vehicles feel obliged to do so? Only greedy successive British governments have maintained the high fuel taxation and put our own haulage industry at a commercial disadvantage.

Charging foreign vehicles to use our roads – of course they would reciprocate!

And are British right-hand drive vehicles more accident-prone abroad? If so, what is he doing about this? Or does that not matter as there are no votes in it for him?

Foreign vehicles may cause more accidents pro-rata than English vehicles, but could that be more down to British drivers not observing (foreign number plate, signwriting on truck etc) it is a non-British vehicle and being a bit more cautious.

Mr Gale also suggests that foreign drivers be detained until their case comes to court, and insurance claims settled. That could take months or years.

Would he suggest similar

imprisonment for British drivers abroad?

Perhaps it would be more helpful if Roger Gale MP put some effort into providing more parking places with decent facilities. After all, it is governments who have decided on fixed driving/rest periods for drivers.

They may not speak our language, but they are just normal people, with families just trying to do a job of work and should be treated with common decency, as any person should be.

Terry Hudson

Join the march to stop Climate Change

DEMONSTRATORS from Kent will be going to London for the annual Climate March on Saturday, December 4, assembling at Speaker's Corner, Hyde Park at noon.

Politicians, scientists and campaigners are also preparing to go to Cancun, Mexico for crucial Climate Change talks.

The scientific and political consensus about the need to deal with human-induced Climate Change has never been wider than it is today.

If we reduce emissions, insulate our buildings and introduce safe energy technologies we can employ thousands of people and resist Climate Change at the same time.

Climate Change means more moisture is held in the atmosphere, creating a likelihood of more extreme weather events.

Kent's coastline and estuaries are very vulnerable to significant changes unless cuts of about 90 per cent in greenhouse gas emissions are achieved by 2050.

But Kent County Council's Local Transport Plan does not even propose measures to cut traffic year on year, in order to cut emissions.

Only 14 out of 27 EU countries are likely to meet their current emissions targets. EU leaders have agreed the major step of seeking cuts in the two fastest growing sectors of greenhouse gas emissions, aviation and shipping, but so far without resources to achieve this.

We have to do better.

Steve Dawe,
Former lecturer in environmental policy
and a current lecturer in public policy.



Animals not answer for third world poor

CHRISTIAN Aid, Oxfam and other aid agencies are once again tapping into public disquiet over the existence of plenty in the midst of hunger and asking you to make a Christmas gift of a farmed animal to an impoverished person in Africa, or in another of the world's poorest regions.

This is despite mounting evidence that animal farming is environmentally destructive; an inefficient user of agricultural land, water and energy; and that it generates disproportionately high volumes of global warming gases.

Because meat and milk production consume such high levels of precious resources, only communities with surplus wealth can afford them.

A 'gift' of animals to destitute communities, who are without such resources, will simply impoverish them further.

It is far more rational to support such people in growing food that they can eat directly.

There is also the very real issue of animal suffering. Where people are unable to provide adequate food, water, shelter and veterinary care, animals get sick and die wretched deaths. This is the case, currently, in the drought-ravaged regions of Kenya.

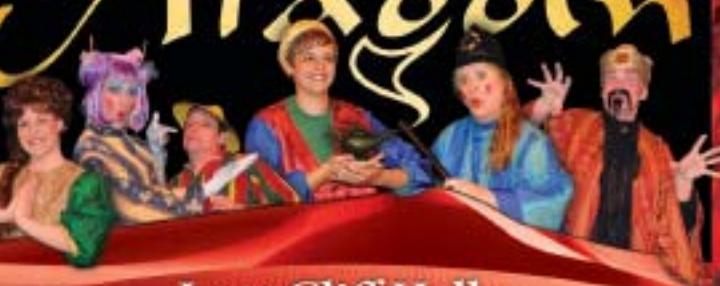
Please support agencies that help people, animals and the environment. For details contact Animal Aid.

Andrew Tyler
Director, Animal Aid
The Old Chapel, Bradford Street,
Tonbridge.

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Notice under Paragraph 7 of Schedule 17 to the Building Societies Act 1986 (as modified by the Mutual Societies (Transfers) Orders 2009 made under Section 3 of the Building Societies (Funding) and Mutual Societies (Transfers) Act 2007).

Notice is hereby given that Kent Reliance Building Society, registered number 206038, whose principal office is at Reliance House, Sun Pier, Chatham, Kent ME4 4ET, desires to transfer its business to OneSavings Plc and that the Society has applied to the Financial Services Authority (FSA) to confirm the transfer.

Any interested party may make written representations to the FSA and/or give notice of intention to make oral representations to the FSA with respect to the application. Written representations or notices of a person's intention to make oral representations at a hearing should be received by The Financial Services Authority, Kent Reliance Building Society Representations, Kent Reliance Team, 11th Floor, 25 The North Colonnade, Canary Wharf, London E14 5HS, marked 'Kent Reliance Building Society Representations' or by e-mail to krbsrepresentations@fsa.gov.uk on or before 15 December 2010. If notice is given of oral representations these will be heard by the FSA at a meeting expected to be held on 6 January 2011, at a time and place to be determined by the FSA.

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Third court to deal with abuse cases

A THIRD specialist domestic violence court could be opened to tackle the high number of abuse cases.

The county already has two, based in Maidstone and Thanet, but the Kent Criminal Justice Board is working with other agencies with the aim of opening a third in Medway next year.

Magistrates, prosecutors and legal advisors at these courts have all undergone specialist training in domestic abuse issues.

Plans for a third facility are a result of the high number of prosecutions seen through the specialist courts.

Justice

Six months before the Maidstone court was opened in July, 2007, a total of 14 perpetrators were brought to justice – in any six month period now the figure is more than 150.

The Thanet court, since opening in July, is seeing an average of 23 cases a month with a 43 per cent increase in the number of successful convictions – from 14 to 20.

If a Medway court was to open it is estimated the specialist facilities would manage 1,100 cases a year.

Deputy Chief Constable of Kent, Adrian Leppard, who chairs the Kent Criminal Justice Board, said: "Bringing more perpetrators to justice is one of our key targets and providing a safe, supportive and secure environment for victims and witnesses is an essential element of this."

Victims can give evidence by video link or from behind a screen with support available before, throughout and after the legal process.

Domestic abuse victims to get more protection

■ BY MARIJKE COX

THE staggering number of cases of domestic violence has led to the launch of a new strategy reaching out to victims of abuse.

Since 2006, more than 20,000 incidents have been reported in Kent and Medway every year, with a staggering £317 million a year spent on dealing with the effects.

The plan brings together various organisations in a bid to drive down the high number of cases and better protect victims.

It was drawn up by the Kent and Medway Domestic Abuse Strategy Group, made up of representatives from police, criminal justice, local government agencies and support groups, to maximise resources and provide victims with efficient and effective services.

At the heart of the new policy is a commitment from the various agencies to work together more closely and integrate the work they do for victims. At the moment they each have their own teams working on domestic violence, leading to some doubling up of services.

Christine Missen, Crown Prosecution Services' domestic violence co-ordinator for Kent, said agencies working together would mean help for a victim from the beginning to the end.

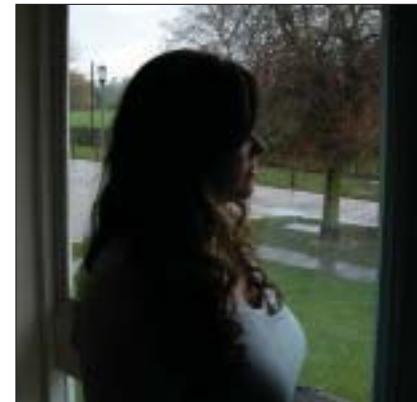
"We need to make people much more aware of the support that is available," she said.

"We needed a new approach to this. Victims need help and advice at the start, during the prosecution process and after.

"Through this we can offer support through every step of the way, such as refuge and protection."

Kent County Council's head of community safety Stuart Beaumont, who chairs the Domestic Abuse Strategy Group, said the plan laid out a simple, but clear focus on the ambitions of organisations working to reduce domestic abuse and support victims, the majority of which are women.

"The immediate challenge continues to be how to sustain, develop and improve those



HELP: The joining of services aims to better help and support victims of domestic violence from beginning to end

services that are working within the domestic abuse field," he said.

"The long term aim is to reduce the number of people affected by domestic abuse across Kent and Medway."

Eight specialist domestic abuse units are used within Kent Police and more than 2,000 officers and staff have received training in the use of a national risk identification checklist called DASH – Domestic Abuse, Stalking, Harassment and Honour Based Violence – to help identify a victim.

Independent Domestic Violence Advisors (IDVA) are also used in Kent to act as a bridge between victims and the various agencies needed during a domestic violence case.

To read the full strategy go to the Kent Criminal Justice Board website www.cjsonline.gov.uk/kent.

For victim help call Kent Police's domestic violence officers on 01622 690690 for general enquiries or 999 in an emergency.

The National Domestic Violence Helpline is 0808 2000247.

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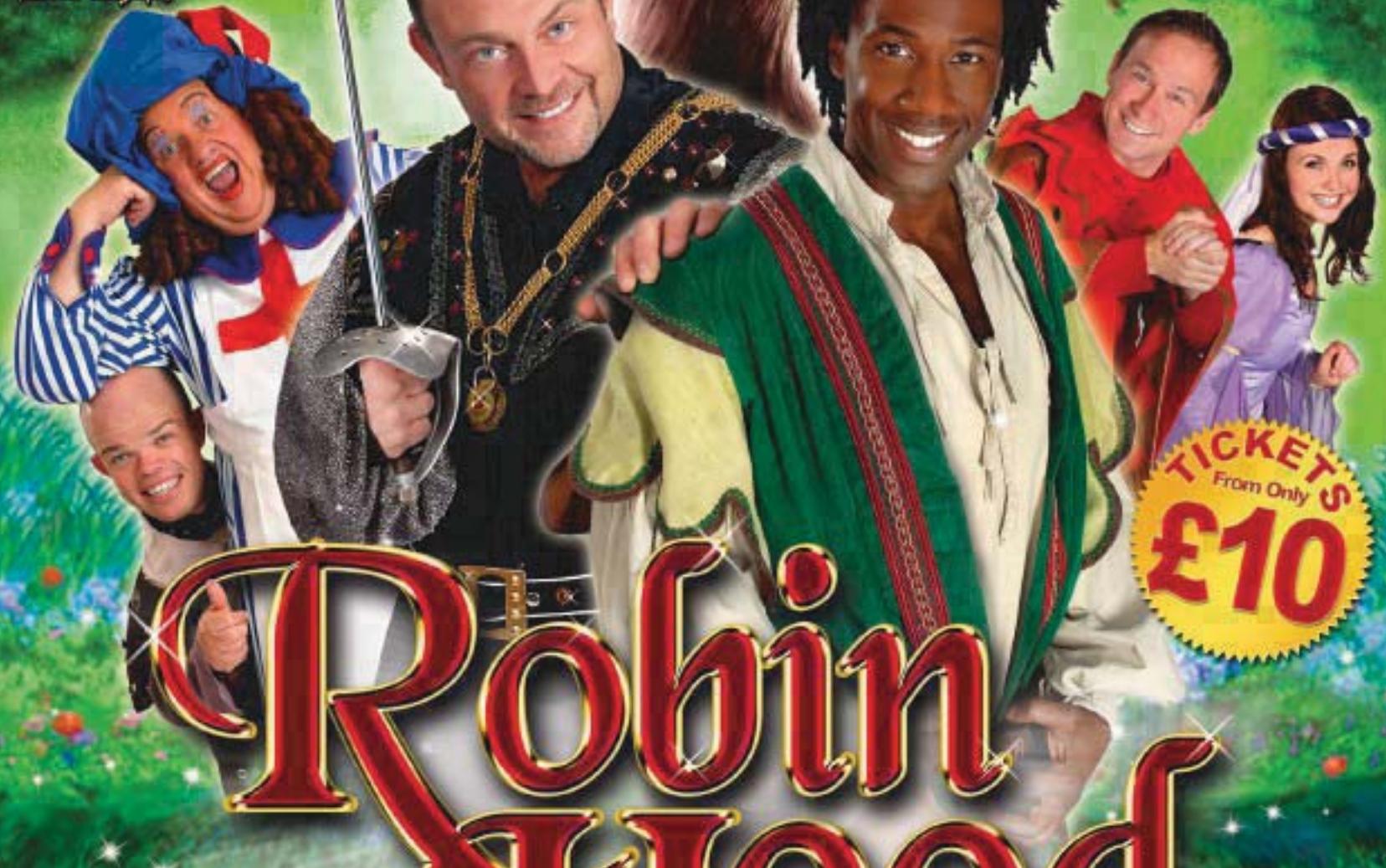
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Hiding to nothing with sniffer dog

A DOG sniffed out stowaways attempting to cross the Channel and enter the UK through the Port of Dover.

Four would-be illegal immigrants were discovered on November 13 by UK Border Agency officials in Calais after they were alerted by their sniffer dog.

A search of the Turkey-registered lorry found four Eritreans, two men and two women, hiding in the trailer.

The following day, officers in Coquelles searched a Polish lorry bound for Dover after discovering it was not secured properly. Inside they found four Vietnamese and three Iranians.

Carole Upshall, the UK Border Agency's director for European operations, said: "Finds such as this highlight the determination and expertise required to stay one step ahead of illegal immigration."

"In 2009, we stopped more than 29,000 individual attempts to cross the English Channel illegally and searched in excess of a million vehicles."

Late-night assault

A MAN required hospital treatment for facial injuries after he was attacked with a bottle outside a bar in Bench Street, Dover.

The assault took place just after midnight on Sunday, November 7, in the smoking area at Funky Monkey.

The 27-year-old victim suffered a cut lip and swelling to his jaw and cheek and needed stitches.

Anyone with information about the incident is asked to contact PC Lucy Hazelden on 01304 218181, or Crimestoppers on 0800 555111.

County Hall wants extra £25m in savings 'shock'

■ BY MARIJKE COX

year 3.3 per cent; and then 7.9 per cent.

"It puts pressure on us because around 18 per cent is going to come out in the first two years. It's accelerated the savings we were going to make over the four years."

Cllr Simmonds admitted it was going to be difficult to take money out of the existing budget: "We've already had £15.5m knocked out this year. We've got some considerable pressures," he said.

A report setting out the council's overall financial challenge was discussed by cabinet members on Monday, two weeks before the Government announces exactly how much KCC will get in grants. The report looks at "unavoidable" budget pressures and outlines expected reductions. Cllr Simmonds said the council had looked at every one of the hundreds of services it provides, how they are delivered, and what customers expect.

He said residents could have to start paying for some services that were previously paid for by the council – but it was too early to say which services would be hit.

"We need to look at things that people value and what things we can cut back on," he said.

"The reorganisation of the authority and how we carry out business will also help produce an economy. Levels of staffing are already being reduced by us not filling jobs or vacancies."

He stressed that children's social services, elderly provision and adult social services were a key priority for the council. KCC is currently considering whether to close a number of council-run care homes for elderly people.

"The number of referrals after the Baby P case have gone up because people are taking no chances, which puts KCC under tremendous pressure," Cllr Simmonds said.

"We've also got a rapidly growing adult population. One of the most expensive things we do is elderly assessments to see if they qualify for support and how much they get."

Painful

"This is done by the Department for Work and Pensions, but they won't disclose the information to us, so we also have to do the assessments. If we could work together we could save money here."

Cllr Simmonds said district and borough councils would find the grant reductions "extremely painful" and admitted KCC was luckier due to its large size.

"If we can weather the next few years hopefully then we'll have smoother waters," he said. "Locally people are aware of the changes. Communities can help by looking at some of the things we do and help provide this on smaller level. We have considerable voluntary input in Kent."

• To read the autumn budget statement, go to www.kent.gov.uk.

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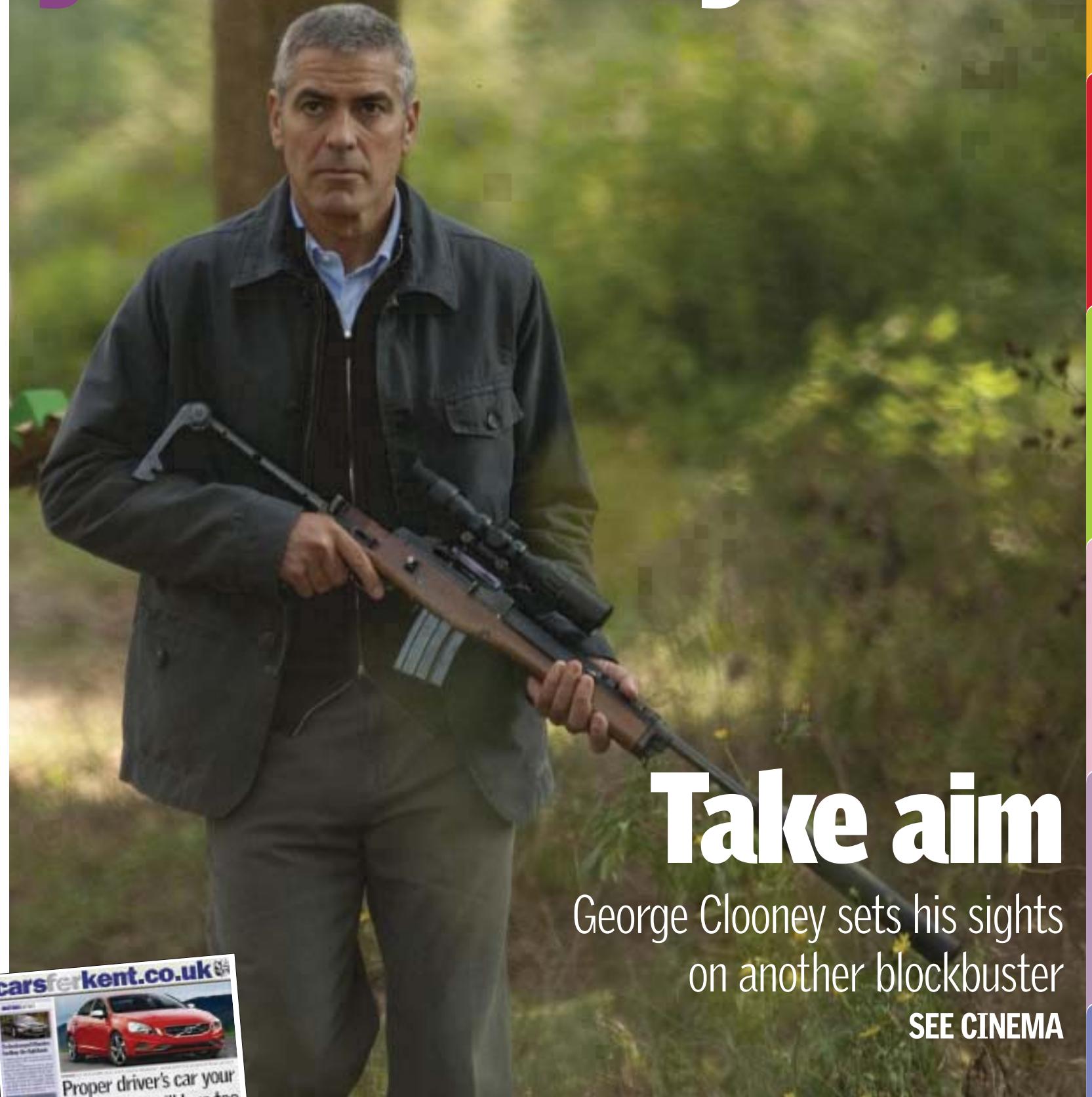
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LEISURE 19-30

**DAY & NIGHT****Hospice trees of love**

PILGRIMS Hospices are again carrying out the Trees of Love project.

Friends and family wishing to remember loved ones can add their names to a Christmas tree at each of the hospices in Canterbury, Ashford and Thanet. To complete a tag, pick up a leaflet at any Pilgrims Hospice, call 01227 782062, or go to www.pilgrimshospice.org.

Don't miss Aladdin

THE Granville Theatre in Ramsgate is presenting Aladdin this Christmas time.

The panto runs from Saturday, December 11 to Monday, January 3.

Tickets start from £11 adults, £10 concessions. Call the box office on 01843 591750 for details and to book or visit www.granvilletheatre.com. Group booking and family deals are available.

Pupils join carol night

THE Whitstable Choral Society holds a Concert of Carols on Saturday, December 11.

It takes place at St Alphege Church, High Street, Whitstable at 7.30pm and features children from Blean Primary School as well as the society's singers.

Tickets are £7.50 adults, children £5 from www.whitstablechoral.org.uk, call 01227 750950 or on the door.

Players' festive cheer

THE Birchington Guild of Players holds a Christmas Night of entertainment.

It takes place at The Centre, Alpha Road, Birchington at 8pm on Friday, December 10, and will include songs, dancing, sketches and readings.

Festive food is served during the interval. Tickets are £5 from 01843 843687.

Composers showcased

THE first year of Sounds New International Composer Pyramid will end on Saturday, December 4.

The work of 12 composers will be performed at Augustine Hall, part of Canterbury Christ Church University new library, at 4pm.

The conductor is Gerry Cornelius, who has worked with the BBC Concert Orchestra, and the Welsh National Opera.

Day Out at the theatre

THE Kent Youth Theatre performs Our Day Out, the musical play by Willy Russell this month.

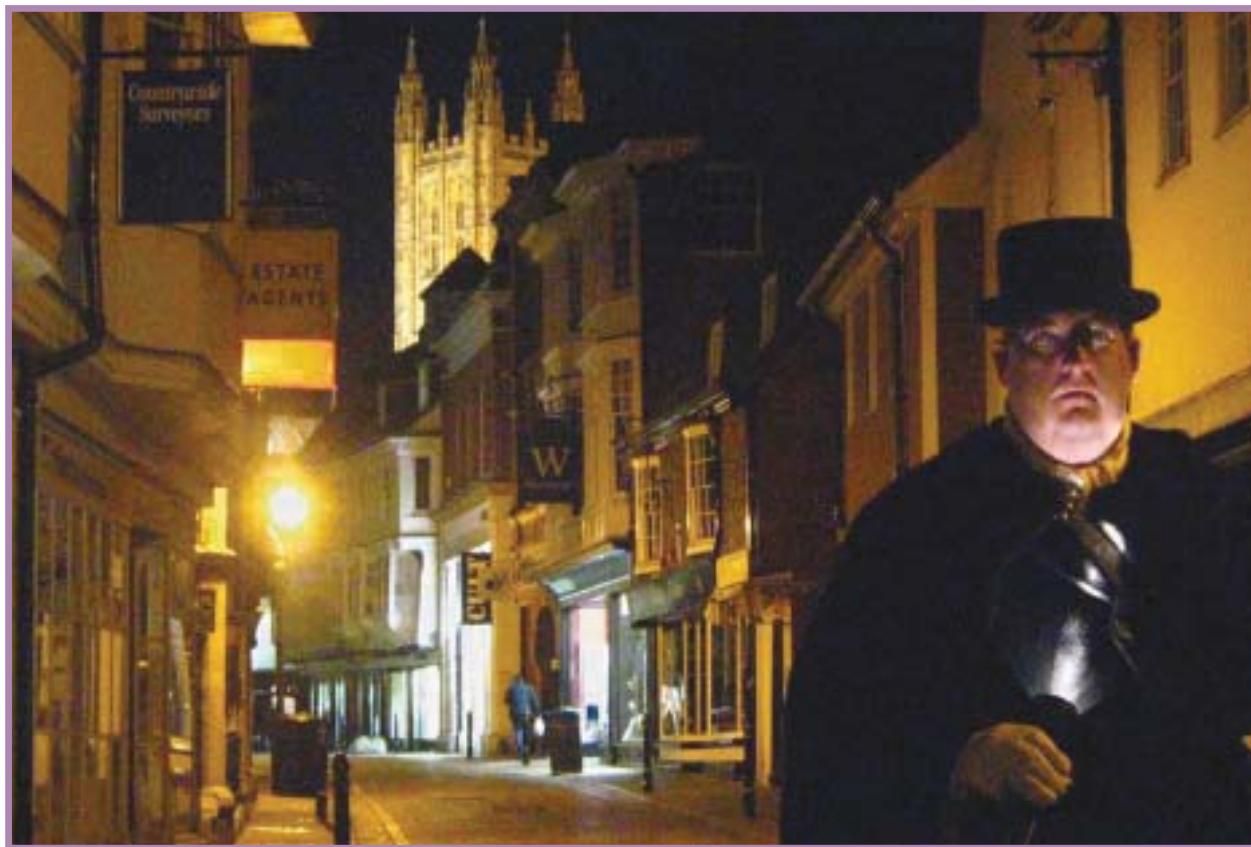
The show is at Kent College, Whitstable Road, Canterbury at 7.30pm on December 15, 16 and 17.

All seats are £5. Call the box office on 01227 730177 or email JustBigKids@kentyouththeatre.co.uk. Visit www.kentyouththeatre.co.uk for details.

Art and crafts on show

WORK from artists and makers across Thanet features in an exhibition, Dark Nights Bright Lights at Marine Studios, Albert Terrace, Margate, from December 3 to December 12.

The show is open Monday to Friday, 10am to 6pm and on Saturday and Sunday, from 2pm to 5pm.



Take a walk on city's wild side

CANTERBURY GHOST TOURS

Ongoing

Start from Alberrys Wine Bar, St Margaret's Street, Canterbury

A BRUSH with the paranormal when he was young sparked John Hippisley's interest in ghosts, and it has continued into later life.

John leads the ghost walks which take place through the streets of Canterbury all year round.

The walks have fed John's interest over the years, but for him, the fascination started many years ago. He takes up the story.

"One night, when I was away at school in Goudhurst, my best friend Miles and I decided we would run away to Florida, as 13-year-old boys do, and I went to meet him at the bike sheds in the night but he never turned up.

"I waited until midnight and gave up and went up to bed. Then in the middle of the night, at about 4.30am, I was woken up by Miles, shaking me and telling me to get a

move on and to get up and come with him.

"I was fed up with it all by that time, and told him to go away, that we were supposed to leave at 9.30pm, not now, but he kept saying "we gotta go, we gotta go". I told him to go and send me a postcard and went back to sleep.

"Anyway, I just presumed he'd gone, and didn't think much of it until the next day when the police arrived at the school, and told us a boy had been killed after being hit by a truck.

"It turned out to be Miles, of course, and it had taken place on the A28 at 4.30am, when I was talking to him. He had actually left as planned on his own, without me and been killed. He had walked for miles and miles.

"I'm convinced it wasn't a dream, and when I met his father at the funeral he had had the same kind of experience. He'd also been woken up by Miles in the night, and by the time he'd gone out to follow him he'd vanished, and there was no sign of him.

"As well as me, other boys in our dormitory saw him and heard him that night. I believe it was what is known as a doppelganger, a crisis apparition that many people see. It is almost as if the deceased is given a short period to

visit their friends and loved ones before they are gone forever."

John says Canterbury has a rich history of ghostly goings-on to tell people about, and he has even written a book on the subject, entitled Haunted Canterbury.

The tours are full of those spooky tales mixed in with the city's rich history, and take about 90 minutes to complete.

All manner of spooky tales trip from John's tongue as he wander the streets with his lantern, top hat and cape during the tours, that will send a shiver down your spine.

For a time, John ran them to raise money for the Friends of the Marlowe Theatre, and managed to raise £1,000 for the cause.

They begin at Alberry's wine bar and cost £9 for adults, £8 concessions and £7 for children.

Deals for groups and tours that include a meal at a restaurant are also available.

John said: "At this time of year, when the nights are cold and dark, people's thoughts always turn more towards this sort of thing, so if you are interested then do come along."

For more information on the walks, or to book, visit www.canterburyghosttour.com.



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MY PASSION, SIZEN AND MORGLBL

Sunday, December 5, Quarterhouse, Folkestone



IT'S metal night at the Quarterhouse, when these big-hitters roar into town.

It's the last night of a national tour, so all three bands will be wanting to finish with a flourish.

My Passion, nominated for Best British Newcomer at the 2010 Kerrang! Awards, are promoting their new album, and are renowned for their tight and energetic performances.

Morglbl, featuring one of the best guitar players in France, the virtuoso Christophe Godin, are also making a stir in hard rock circles.

Bassist Ivan Rougny also has a unique style of playing and

pushes the boundaries. Sizen, meanwhile, have received rave reviews from Metal Hammer, Rock Sound, Big Cheese and Power Play, topped off by a 4 'K' review from Kerrang magazine for their debut album *What Do You See?*

As a one-off special, Sizen will be joined by Sally Jo, six-string metal violinist and Sizen Shadow Orchestra. Support for the three main acts comes from I.R.I.S and Colt 44.

Tickets are £8 in advance or £10 on the door. Call 01303 858500 or visit www.quarterhouse.co.uk to book. Over 16s only.



CUT A SHINE WINTER HOEDOWN

Saturday, December 4, Astor Theatre, Deal



SMUGGLERS Records Present an evening with their friends, associates and cronies.

On Saturday it's the Cut A Shine Collective Winter Hoedown, featuring soulgrass band Kidnap Alice.

The seven-piece, who hail from Hackney in London, blend soul, bluegrass, and old time influences to make their own special sound and to bridge the gap between vintage rhythm and blues and Appalachian mountain music.

They have played at Glastonbury, and the LoveBox, Green Man and

Bestival festivals among others.

Featured are Joe Buirski in banjo, Joe Hymas on mandolin, Felix Vandersluis, Jerry Bloom on fiddle, Ben Gallon on guitar, Danimal Kuper on accordion and Alice Ballantine on vocals and guitar.

There'll even be a prize for the best redneck outfit, so grab a partner and swing on down to the Barn Dance.

Tickets are £8 in advance £10 on the door and the fun starts at 7.30pm.

Visit www.theastor.org for more information and to book, or call 01304 370220.

RUBBER BISCUIT'S HOOTENANNY



Friday, December 31, The Kings Hall, Beacon Hill, Herne Bay

SEE in the new year in style with one of Kent's top soul bands.

Rubber Biscuit are holding a holiday hootenanny to see out 2010 and see in 2011.

An evening of drinking, dancing and merry-making will make this one party not to be missed.

The band have been regulars on the South East's gig scene since 1992, and played all over the world.

The aim is to get everyone in the room up and dancing, with their infectious energetic performances.

Having sold out Canterbury's Marlowe Theatre on a number of occasions, Rubber Biscuit has a deserved reputation for going that extra mile to offer something different to local music fans.

This year they have entertained



thousands at various gigs across the county and their Christmas shows at the King's Hall go down well.

The 500 capacity venue is usually full with a fantastic crowd, all keen to see what surprises the band has in store.

The band hope that the move to

New Year's Eve will generate an even greater party atmosphere and promise a night to remember – the perfect way to greet 2011.

Tickets are £15 each, doors open at 7.30pm. Book online at kingscaterers.co.uk or call 01227 373322.

PINOCCHIO



Thursday, December 9 to December 27, Theatre Royal, Margate

A NEW family musical of the famous story of the wooden boy with the lengthening nose comes to Thanet for a lengthy run at the Theatre Royal.

This is a show full of warmth, wit and wonderful characters, stunning sets and fabulous costumes.

The old woodworker Geppetto decides to create a puppet of his own – an obedient and well-behaved son.

But Pinocchio has other ideas, and becomes caught up in a series of adventures that land him in trouble.

This full-scale mini-operetta comes from the same great team that brought you last year's hugely popular Snow Queen and the terrific Ali Baba.

There are no performances on December 19, 20, and 25. Tickets cost £14 for adults, £12.50 senior citizens, £10 children for the 10am and 1.30pm shows, but increase for the shows at 2pm, 5.30pm and 7pm shows. Family tickets (from £44 for two adults, two children) are available.

More details are available from the website at www.theatreroyalalmargate.com or call the box office on 0845 1301786 or 01227 787787.



LYNNE HERAUD AND PAT TURNER



Wednesday, December 15, The Chimney Boy, Faversham

FAVERSHAM Folk Club welcomes back the two performers with a fine folk pedigree.

The pair are two of the most experienced and established harmony singers on the folk scene and have a leaning towards traditional English material, but occasionally diversify and perform their own material and Victorian and Edwardian songs.

During the 1970s, Lynne Heraud sang as part of a successful duo with Sue Ashby when they performed at many major clubs and festivals in the UK.

In the early 1980s she sang with Frank Lee and John Lambert as Tom, Dick and Harry.

Lynne is also half of a very successful duo with Keith Kendrick, and they released a highly-acclaimed CD *Stars in my Crown* in 2001.

Pat sang for six years with the harmony group, Filigree, with Pete Cunningham and Chris and Roger Jeffreys. They recorded two albums and even released a single.

Doors open at 8pm. Entry is £5 for members, £6 for non-members, under 18s free.



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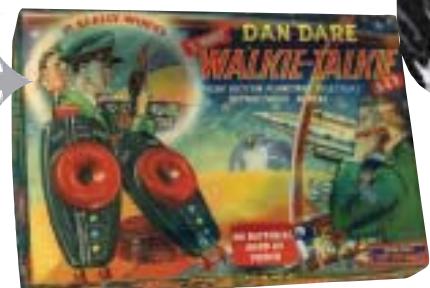
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VERY attractive feminine working girl, great personality, loves to laugh seeks well built, experienced guy for quality times together. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 352127 ☎

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ROCKEFELLER 38, medium build, fair, funny, bubbly, likes conversation, seeks male for good times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 353359

TALL female, medium build, bubbly, chatty, likes nights in, cooking, days out, seeks interesting male for friendship, maybe more. Worthing. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 353357 ☎

VICKY attractive, kind, down to earth, black British, likes travel, writing, reading, cooking, socialising, seeks generous, good man who is family orientated. Essex. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 353033

YOUNG black female, likes meals out, theatre, seeks solvent white male 30-47 for genuine relationship. Ashford. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382706

CURVY young looking widow loves dancing, nights out, but, would prefer cosy nights in with that special male. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 352677 ☎

SLIM blue eyed blonde, 48, loving and kind, hopeless romantic, likes pubs, nights in/out seeks similar romantic male to get to know. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 353461 ☎

ELEGANT stylish blonde widow, young 59, very good company, looking for attractive, cultured, older male to share interests, good conversation and who knows. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 353455 ☎

WARM hearted female, curves in all the right places, new to area, seeks intelligent male to share interests, friendship and maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 353419 ☎

LOVELY lady, 48, beautiful curves, many interests, just wants to meet an honest decent guy and make him happy. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 353417 ☎

DOWN to earth, slim blonde, curves in all the right places, looking for easygoing, fun guy for some relaxed fun times. Looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 352673 ☎

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PRETTY happy go lucky lady, no ties, seeks tall, slim, attractive guy with big heart as well as personality for fun friendship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 352675 ☎

QUIET smart, brown eyed lady, likes meals out and dancing, WLMT laidback mature man to share laughter/TLC. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 352673 ☎

60YR old female, seeks special N/S, non drinking gent, loving and caring for LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 353253 ☎

BERYL 70 plus, 5ft 6ins, slim, fair hair, green eyes, seeks gent who likes travel, theatre, sports, meals out. Hampshire. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 353165 ☎

FEMALE 60's, likes music, reading, Grandchildren, WLMT honest, trustworthy gent 55-65 for friendship, maybe more. Portsmouth. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 352853 ☎

DISCO queen, fun loving, serene, black, attractive female, nice smile, 37, slim, lover of music, theatre, seeking, seeks genuine, caring gent, 36-49, N/S to share life and laughter. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 333815

CUDDLY bubbly female, 49, lovely personality, many interests WLMT nice man with similar interests for friendship first. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 353453 ☎

LEGGY blonde, young 50's, easygoing looking for excitement, likes nature, animals, nights out, seeks similar tall, solvent male for fun and laughter. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 353421 ☎

TALL slim blonde, 46, loves to travel looking for someone genuine and honest to share cosy evenings in with a bottle of wine, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 351341 ☎

LYO blonde, young, 50's, easygoing looking for excitement, likes nature, animals, nights out, seeks similar tall, solvent male for fun and laughter. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 351343 ☎

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TALL female, medium build, bubbly, chatty, likes nights in, cooking, days out, seeks interesting male for friendship, maybe more. Worthing. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 353357 ☎

VICKY attractive, kind, down to earth, black British, likes travel, writing, reading, cooking, socialising, seeks generous, good man who is family orientated. Essex. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 353033

YOUNG black female, likes meals out, theatre, seeks solvent white male 30-47 for genuine relationship. Ashford. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382706

CURVY young looking widow loves dancing, nights out, but, would prefer cosy nights in with that special male. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 352677 ☎

SLIM blue eyed blonde, 48, loving and kind, hopeless romantic, likes pubs, nights in/out seeks similar romantic male to get to know. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 353461 ☎

ELEGANT stylish blonde widow, young 59, very good company, looking for attractive, cultured, older male to share interests, good conversation and who knows. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 353455 ☎

WARM hearted female, curves in all the right places, new to area, seeks intelligent male to share interests, friendship and maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 353419 ☎

LOVELY lady, 48, beautiful curves, many interests, just wants to meet an honest decent guy and make him happy. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 353417 ☎

DOWN to earth, slim blonde, curves in all the right places, looking for easygoing, fun guy for some relaxed fun times. Looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 352673 ☎

CURVY blonde, loving but a bit of a dreamer looking to share special times together with likeminded easygoing male. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 352671 ☎

PRETTY happy go lucky lady, no ties, seeks tall, slim, attractive guy with big heart as well as personality for fun friendship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 352675 ☎

QUIET smart, brown eyed lady, likes meals out and dancing, WLMT laidback mature man to share laughter/TLC. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 352673 ☎

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BERYL 70 plus, 5ft 6ins, slim, fair hair, green eyes, seeks gent who likes travel, theatre, sports, meals out. Hampshire. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 353165 ☎

FEMALE 60's, likes music, reading, Grandchildren, WLMT honest, trustworthy gent 55-65 for friendship, maybe more. Portsmouth. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 352853 ☎

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LYO young 50yr old lady, divorced, attractive, size 16, black hair, green eyes, no ties, dog, likes walks, meals out, nights in, socialising, seeks gent, 40-55. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 350023

STUNNING blonde, feels life is for living looking for her Mr Right, 45-55, who can make her feel special. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 350723 ☎

CURVY blonde, big blue eyes, many interests WLMT genuine male to make her laugh and brighten up her day. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 350721 ☎

STUNNING slim green eyed blonde, fun to be with, likes nights out, looking for that special someone. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 350691 ☎

PRETTY blonde with lovely green eyes seeks male for good conversation and companionship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 349901 ☎

AFFECTIONATE curly green eyed blonde seeking fit active male to share new adventures with. Looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 349919 ☎

MARGARET 69, 5ft 4ins, active, N/S, GSOH, likes keep fit, walks, sees special lady, Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 349085 ☎

CHRIS 49, own home, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. Portsmouth. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 353977 ☎

GENUINE nice guy young 50's, romantic, tactile, solvent, GSOH, likes keep fit, walks, sees special lady for LTR. Storrington. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 352793 ☎

MALE seeks female for serious relationship. Stratford. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 354095 ☎

CHRIS 49, own home, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. Portsmouth. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 353977 ☎

MALE 40, 5ft 8ins, slim, brown hair/eyes, average looks, likes nights in/out, country pubs, animal, seeks similar lady for LTR. Sutton. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 352690 ☎

CHRIS 49, own home, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. Portsmouth. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 353977 ☎

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MARGARET 69, 5ft 4ins, active, N/S, GSOH, likes keep fit, walks, sees special lady for LTR. Storrington. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 349085 ☎

CHRIS 49, own home, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. Portsmouth. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 353977 ☎

CHRIS 49, own home, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. Portsmouth. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 353977 ☎

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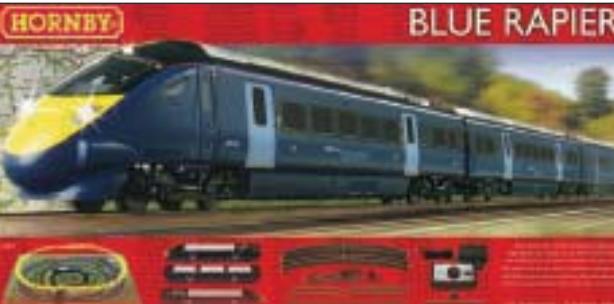
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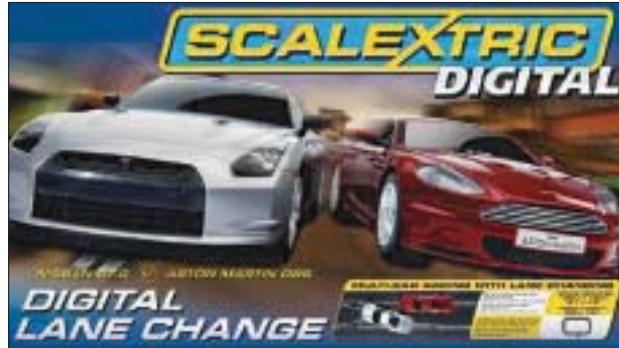


COMMUTER travel entered a new age during 2009 when the sleek and revolutionary Hitachi Class 395 entered service. This new state-of-the-art train with its twin power source motors quickly became the train of choice for those commuters who use the Southeastern service to London every day, saving those in the extremities of the service as much as 30 minutes or more of travel time.

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Nowhere to run as past comes gunning for assassin Clooney

■ BY DAMON SMITH

BASED on the Martin Booth novel *A Very Private Gentleman*, director Anton Corbijn's follow-up to the award-winning Ian Curtis biopic *Control* is a meticulously crafted portrait of a man of violence trying to escape his grim fate.

Predictably, the antihero can only outrun the past for so long before it catches up with him and demands bloodthirsty redemption.

George Clooney is on screen for almost every frame in the title role, his face etched with weariness as an assassin who has grown tired of always looking over his shoulder.

Without the star power of its leading man, *The American* would struggle to find an audience outside the arthouse circuit.

It's an unremittingly bleak and slow-burning study of solitude, epitomised by a remarkable and protracted sequence in which the titular character drives towards the white light at the end of a long tunnel.

Corbijn refuses to cut away from inside the car as the white light expands, illuminating the driver until the entire screen is filled with blinding white.

Following a bungled assassination attempt in Sweden, hitman Jack (George Clooney) decides to abandon the killing game once and for all. He phones handler Pavel (Johan Leysen), who suggests that Jack should lay low in the Italian town of Castelvecchio.

"Don't talk to anyone and, above all, don't make any friends. You used to know that," scolds Pavel.

The hit man drives to the remote community and on the spur of the moment disobeys orders and sets up camp in nearby Castel Del Monte.

By day, Jack keeps himself busy by constructing a custom-made weapon for mysterious client Mathilde (Thekla Reuten).



Picture: PA PHOTO/UNIVERSAL PICTURES UK

STATE OF THE UNION: Thekla Reuten as Mathilde and George Clooney as Jack in *The American*

By night, he enjoys the carnal delights of local prostitute, Clara (Violante Placido). As Jack's paranoia takes hold, he seeks counsel from local holy man, Father Benedetto (Paolo Bonacelli). "A man can be rich if he has God in his heart," contends the priest.

"I don't think God is interested in me, Father," mocks Jack, fearing he is well past the point of no return.

The American is an engrossing character

study, enlivened by explosions of violence including a night-time car chase that is as close as the film strays to an action set-piece.

Corbijn makes excellent use of the stunning European locations and keeps himself, and us, amused with interesting shots.

Thus, the throwaway image of a train arriving at a platform in Rome is captured as a reflection in one of the station display boards.

In the absence of bright colours in the film's

palette, Clooney sparks a dazzling screen chemistry, in very different ways, with Placido and Bonacelli, the latter wearing his dog collar with conviction.

"You are American. You think you can escape history," laments Father Benedetto.

As Jack discovers, there is no escape.

THE AMERICAN
Certificate 15 



PERIOD DRAMA: Andrew Buchan stars as the engaging barrister William Garrow



YOUR TV REVIEW *GARROW'S LAW*: Sunday, 9pm, BBC1

IF you have been missing your weekly Sunday evening hit of high period drama after the conclusion of ITV's hit show *Downton Abbey*, you can now breathe easy.

The good old BBC has dutifully replaced *Downton*, in exactly the same 9pm pre-work stress busting slot, with another hour long ode to times past. But unlike ITV's genial offering, which peddles history as a side order to drama, frocks and country piles, *Garrow's Law* tells the story of seminal events in the criminal justice system.

It follows the life of William Garrow (Andrew Buchan), a dashing young barrister kicking up a storm in the Old Bailey with his progressive views about justice and equality.

It seems Garrow, who later went on to be a judge and solicitor general for England and Wales, was the man

■ BY JENNY ARMSTRONG

who coined the phrase "innocent until proven guilty", used as a mantra in legal trials to this day. He also championed the adversarial system of justice still practised in courts today, where both the prosecution and the defence have their say in court.

As one would expect, *Garrow's Law* includes its fair share of court scenes with judges and barristers in full fig, as well as gasps and shouts from the public gallery rendered unlikely by their frequency and volume.

And they are great cases too – ones with shocking messages about the way justice was conducted and what used to be illegal.

In one case the captain of a slave

fraud because he threw 50 of his slaves overboard on false pretences, but the act is not treated as murder.

But court does not dominate the programme. There is a love interest in the form of the delicious Lady Sarah (Lyndsey Marshal), pretty frocks, big houses and several other story lines to keep the interest going.

Sadly, *Garrow's Law* does not glide through the period as effortlessly as *Downton* did. The budget is clearly lower, the cast not as stellar and some of the sets come off a bit more *Blackadder* than *Bronte*. And as this is now the second series of *Garrow's Law*, a lot of back story is assumed in terms of the relationship between Garrow and Lady Sarah, which adds a mite of confusion.

But all in all, it is a fair replacement to *Downton* and far more educational to boot.



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99p Bar Carry on New Year Parties

Bosworth Hall Hotel, Leicestershire - over 40s only

Arrive Fridays: January 7 & 14, 2011

Join us for a party that extends the New Year celebrations at a price that's distinctly special. Our 2-night party break includes hotel accommodation, breakfast and dinner each day, entertainment and a 99p bar both evenings. Bosworth Hall is a super country house hotel set in landscaped grounds in the village of Market Bosworth - in the heart of England.

PRICE INCLUDES:

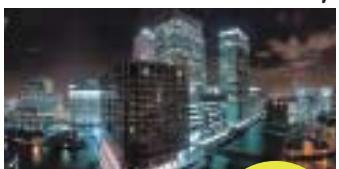
- 99P DRINKS from 5pm to 11pm both nights. Drinks include house beers & spirits, wine by the glass
- Entertainment
- 2 dinners and 2 breakfasts
- 2 nights sharing a twin or double-bedded en-suite room

SELF-DRIVE 2 NIGHTS ONLY £99pp
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Carry on New Year Party

London International Hotel, London Docklands - over 40s only

January 2 to 4, 2011



PRICE INCLUDES:

- Entertainment both nights
- 99P DRINKS from 7pm to 11pm both nights. Drinks include house beers & spirits, wine by the glass
- 2 dinners and 2 breakfasts
- 2 nights sharing a twin or double-bedded en-suite room

SELF-DRIVE 2 NIGHTS £119pp
Quote CL1

Come Dancing Party

Warner Bembridge Coast, Isle of Wight - over 40s only

January 14 to 17, 2011

PRICE INCLUDES:

- Dance tuition, social dancing and a Grand Ball
- Variety entertainment
- 3 nights en-suite Ambassador Room
- 3 dinners and 3 breakfasts
- Leisure facilities: Indoor pool & sauna
- Return car ferry
- FREE DRINKS from 3.30pm to 11pm on Friday and 12noon to 11pm on Saturday & Sunday. Drinks include house beers & spirits, house wine by the glass, pumped soft drinks & mixers, tea & coffee



SELF-DRIVE 3 NIGHTS DRINKS-INCLUSIVE £259pp
Quote WB1

Carry on New Year Party

Warner Sinah Warren, Hayling Island - over 40s only



SELF-DRIVE 3 NIGHTS DRINKS-INCLUSIVE £229pp
Quote WS1

Winter Warmer Party

Warner Bembridge Coast, Isle of Wight - over 40s only

January 14 to 17, 2011



PRICE INCLUDES:

- Entertainment every night
- 3 nights en-suite Ambassador room
- 3 dinners and 3 breakfasts
- Leisure facilities: Indoor pool & sauna
- Return car ferry
- FREE DRINKS from 3.30pm to 11pm on Friday and 12noon to 11pm on Saturday & Sunday. Drinks include house beers & spirits, house wine by the glass, pumped soft drinks & mixers, tea & coffee

SELF-DRIVE 3 NIGHTS DRINKS-INCLUSIVE £229pp
Quote WB1

Suffolk Twixmas

Warner Corton, nr Great Yarmouth - over 21s only

December 27 to 30, 2010

Get away from the stress of the festive season with a great-value break at Warner Corton, on the Suffolk coast near Great Yarmouth.



SELF-DRIVE 3 NIGHTS £159pp
Quote CO12-3

Christmas Party Break

Warner Lakeside, Hayling Island - over 21s only

December 17 to 20, 2010



PRICE INCLUDES:

- Entertainment every night
- 3 nights en-suite chalet accommodation
- 3 dinners and 3 breakfasts
- Leisure facilities: Indoor pool & sauna
- FREE DRINKS from 6pm to 11pm every evening. Drinks include house beers & spirits, house wine by the glass, pumped soft drinks & mixers, tea & coffee

SELF-DRIVE 3 NIGHTS DRINKS-INCLUSIVE £199pp
Quote LK12

Mamma Mia Party

Warner Bembridge Coast, Isle of Wight - over 50s only

February 25 to 28, 2011

PRICE INCLUDES:

- Entertainment featuring a Mamma Mia movie screening, Abba tribute band in concert & more
- 3 nights en-suite Ambassador Room
- 3 dinners and 3 breakfasts
- Leisure facilities: Indoor pool & sauna
- Return car ferry
- FREE DRINKS from 3.30pm to 11pm on Friday and 12noon to 11pm on Saturday & Sunday. Drinks include house beers & spirits, house wine by the glass, pumped soft drinks & mixers, tea & coffee



SELF-DRIVE 3 NIGHTS DRINKS-INCLUSIVE £239pp
Quote MW2

Mamma Mia Spring Party

Warner Bodelwyddan Castle, North Wales - over 50s only

March 25 to 28, 2011



PRICE INCLUDES:

- Entertainment featuring a Mamma Mia movie screening, Abba tribute band in concert & more
- 3 nights en-suite Ambassador Room
- 3 dinners and 3 breakfasts
- Leisure facilities: Indoor pool & sauna
- FREE DRINKS from 6pm to 11pm every night - house beers & spirits, house wine by the glass, pumped soft drinks & mixers, tea & coffee

SELF-DRIVE 3 NIGHTS DRINKS-INCLUSIVE £239pp
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ABTA Y0291



yourmusic

Christmas made for Bad Manners



BAD BOYS: Buster and the gang are bringing their Christmas tour to the Quarterhouse

■ BY SIMON ROBINSON

MY PARENTS were wrong – bad manners should not be forcibly discouraged, rather actively encouraged.

Sure, talking with your mouth full is disgusting, talking while someone else is speaking is obnoxious and those animals who stubbornly refuse to punctuate their utterings with neither 'please' nor 'thankyou' deserve to be shot.

But bad manners are still a-ok in my book.

After all, how can you dislike one of the 1980s most widely-known two-tone acts, famed for hits such as Lip Up Fatty, My Girl Lollipop and the Can Can?

I'll accept that The Specials and Madness hold a larger chunk of the genre's place in my heart, but hearing Buster Bloodvessel and his boys never fails to lighten the mood of this hardened-hack.

So imagine my Christmas Day Scrooge epiphany-esque delight when I learned Bad Manners were playing a festive gig at The Quarterhouse in Folkestone next month.

I was overjoyed. A Quarterhouse spokesman was equally buoyant.

He said: "Buster Bloodvessel and his band of merry men – BAD MANNERS are joining us as part of their Special Christmas Tours, and they're not leaving til you've skanked like Santa Claus."

"Having played a fair bit locally, the band's live support around here remains second-to-none, as proven by their gig at this year's Lounge On The Farm festival, drawing a crowd just as big as that of the headline act Toots & the Maytals. And they put on just as good a show, if not better, to match it."

Support on the night comes from Max Splodge, hero of Splodgenessabounds and Two

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BAND PRACTICE: Zinta Egle and her band play Love With No Love



BEING POLITE: Singer Kayleigh Phillips performs her new song The Polite Way



TOP FIVE KENT GIGS

- 1 Craig Sheridan - Times Change (from Deal)
- 2 Don't Eat The Mic - Invaders Must Die (from Deal)
- 3 Gristlebridge - Unbreakable (from Whitstable)
- 4 Ron Bowdery - The Hooray Henries (New Eltham)
- 5 Vivid Nation - What Will Be (from Canterbury)

Pints Of Lager And A Packet Of Crisps fame, alongside a local ska band well on the up and some bona fide solid ska selectors filling in the gaps.

Bad Manners play The Quarterhouse on Wednesday, December 15.

Tickets cost £16 and can be purchased online at www.quarterhouse.co.uk.



BIG MOMENT: Tennis ace Rafa Nadal poses for a photograph with his hero, Minnie Mouse, on a recent visit to Disneyland Paris

yourgetaways



Christmas magic is bigger and better at Disneyland

■ BY TOM WILKINSON

FALLING snow, a parade of princesses and a lollipop the size of a dinner plate – my three-year-old thought her Christmas had come early at Disneyland Paris, and perhaps it had.

The giant resort stretches out the festive period from the first weekend in November to January, with a spectacular show of glitz, glamour and razzmatazz, enough to warm the heart of this old Scrooge.

It's impossible not to get carried away with the fun when you see it through the eyes of a mesmerised daughter, who could not stop beaming after meeting Mickey Mouse and Disney's newest heroine Rapunzel, whose movie is not even out yet.

Rosie and I travelled to Disneyland Paris for a weekend break from St Pancras International. Soon we were at Marne la Vallee station, practically on the doorstep of the two theme parks and retail village.

Our Hotel New York was a couple of minutes' walk away, and we swiftly checked in next to the huge Christmas tree in the lobby.

But that tree was dwarfed by the 24-metre tall, 24-tonne pine that Disney unveiled at the start of its Christmas celebrations.

The tree, in the square of Main Street USA, boasts almost 500 bulbs, and the star at the top is lit every night in a charming ceremony.

Disney doesn't really do darkness, as more than a million lights illuminate the Town Square, Main Street and Sleeping Beauty's Castle over Christmas.

Main Street is the venue for the Dreams of Christmas Parade, when all your favourite cartoon heroes pass before your eyes on floats, in an all-singing, all-dancing spectacular.

FACT FILE: FRANCE

Time difference	+One hour (GMT)
Capital	Paris
Language	French
Population	65.4 million
Currency	Euro
Religion	Christian

Tom Wilkinson was a guest of Disneyland Paris which offers three-day packages via Eurostar in December from £412 per adult and £178 per child (7-11), and £65 per child (4-5, travel only). Under-7s stay and play free until December 31. Package including two nights' B&B at Disney's Hotel New York and three-day hopper tickets for Disneyland Park and Walt Disney Studios Park. Same package at Disney's Hotel Santa Fe from £287 per adult, £178 per child. Disneyland Paris reservations: 0844 800 8111 and www.disneylandparis.com



It proved to be a highlight for my little one, and for hundreds if not thousands of others who lined the parade route to get a good view.

When the float carrying all the princesses, including her all-time favourites Jasmine (from Aladdin) and Ariel (from the Little Mermaid), arrived, Rosie's eyes were on stalks.

For Christmas, Santa has been invited to set up his workshop, and children drop off letters for him.

There was so much going on, it would be easy to miss something great. Luckily, Rosie was too small for some of the more scary rides, as we could never have crammed everything in.

When we weren't star-spotting – tennis ace Rafa Nadal was visiting when we were there – Rosie and I tackled as many rides as we could.

Her undoubted favourite was a gentle boat ride called It's A Small

World, which takes the visitor on a five-minute trip round the globe, populated with dancing dolls.

Over in the neighbouring Walt Disney Studios Park, Rosie loved the recent Slinky Dog Zigzag ride, for novice rollercoaster riders, and the Aladdin-themed Flying Carpets Over Agrabah, where you can make your carpet rise and fall as it spins.

Some rides get very busy, but quieten in the final hour of opening, as visitors with younger children leave early. Disney also uses a Thor Fastpass system which allows you to 'pre-book' a place on popular rides.

Disneyland Paris staff use both French and English and even the shows are bilingual.

As Santa waved us off, my daughter did not bat an eyelid when he wished us both a "Goodnight" and a "Bonne soiree".

Well, that's the magic of Disney.

MOTORS NEWS



Turbocharged Mondeo fuelling the fightback

FORD'S updated Mondeo line-up features a new hi-tech 1.6-litre turbocharged petrol EcoBoost engine.

It's part of a fightback by petrol against diesel through sporty performance, but with better economy and emissions than before.

This new 160PS (158bhp) 1.6 unit with a six-speed manual gearbox can average more than 40mpg and emits 158g CO2/km.

Its diesel rival, the 2.0TDCi, delivers more than 50mpg and 139g/km CO2, but offers little extra on company car tax or acceleration, and is £1,000 dearer.



Mazda hatches diesel option for New Year

MAZDA has given its family hatchback Mazda3 model a New Year boost, with power, emissions and economy improvements to the 1.6 diesel (from £16,505).

Arriving in January, this model meets more stringent emissions regulations and features a new six-speed manual gearbox.

It should further drive Dartford-based Mazda UK's ambitions in fleet sales.

Low emissions allow it to escape road tax in year one and incur just £30 a year thereafter. It also averages in the mid-60s for mpg.



Desirable Peugeot star coupé boosts ratings

PEUGEOT'S stunning RCZ Coupé has confirmed its desirability by outperforming used car valuations from market watchers at CAP.

Fifteen examples of the new sporting icon, launched this summer, averaged 103 per cent of expected valuations at auction.

Bidding to secure this desirable stock, Peugeot dealers even went to £23,500 for a flagship example – 111 per cent of the CAP forecast. This is no surprise; the RCZ is good to drive, economical and affordable – new or secondhand.



CONTENDER: Volvo's S60 will give BMW's 3-Series a run for its money in the driving department – and anyone along for the ride can luxuriate in its first-class cabin comforts

Proper driver's car your passengers will love too

THE all-new S60 was hyped as the Volvo to finally challenge the ubiquitous BMW 3-Series in the junior executive car race.

But it was never going to be quite like that, since the Swedish brand has retained the front-driven layout of the previous car, while the German star stands by the rear-wheel drive that has made its fortune.

But this second generation S60 does offer excellent reasons to weigh its virtues against those of the BMW when company car choosers – likely to account for most sales – start their next bout of head-scratching.

For it appears more compact than the previous generation S60 and follows the vogue for four-door coupé styling, while truly delivering in the handling department.

The ride feels pliant and copes well with rural roads still scarred by last winter and yet the S60 (from £23,295) feels remarkably taut on the bends, while the steering is well-weighted and delivers excellent feedback. Some will still prefer the BMW's balance and even tauter ride, but they risk being selfish.

ROAD TEST

VOLVO S60

■ BY STEVE LOADER

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal



Image



Space



Value



Running costs



Reliability



Green rating



The Volvo is a driver's car, too, but a nicer car for passengers. And this also applies to cabin ambience, which is first class.

Refinement is generally good at all speeds and particularly on motorways, though Volvo's five-cylinder diesel sounded raucous under pressure in our high-spec SE Lux review car.

Nevertheless, the popular D5 is well-matched to the new S60 with the 202bhp output delivering loads of low-down power for both press-on and lazy motoring situations and helped by a light and well-spaced six-speed gearbox allowing an average mpg of well over 50.

Even the all-new five-cylinder 163bhp 2.0-litre D3 engine has to work hard to better that.

The new S60 may be specified with a ground-breaking pedestrian detection package, which can stop a collision with a pedestrian up to 21mph, and dramatically reduce speed above that, with potentially life-saving consequences, but will people really cough up an extra £1,350 for such a selfless feature?

Standard S60 kit is generous and includes electronic climate and cruise controls, colour screen for the 'infotainment' system, steering wheel audio controls, alloys and leather-clad wheel and gearshift.



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58 Plate Skoda Roomster 1.9TDI PD 3 5-Dr MPV

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09 Plate Skoda Fabia 2 1.2 HTP 12V (70 BHP) 5-Dr Estate

Finished in Grey Metallic with a Black Cloth interior, 10,700 miles. £9,495

58 Plate Skoda Fabia 1 1.2 HTP 6V (60 BHP) 5-Dr Hatchback

Finished in Dynamic Blue with a Black Cloth interior, 13,200 miles. £6,995*

10 Plate Skoda Fabia 1 1.2 HTP 6V (60 BHP) 5-Dr Hatchback

Finished in Dynamic Blue with a Grey Cloth interior, 9,500 miles, £6995

59 Plate Skoda Fabia 1 1.2 HTP 6V (60 BHP) 5-Dr Hatchback

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57 Plate Skoda Fabia 1 1.2 HTP 6V (60 BHP) 5-Dr Hatchback

Finished in Flamenco Red Metallic with a Grey Cloth interior, 22,500 miles. £5,995

54 Plate Skoda Fabia 1.2 HTP (54 BHP) Classic 5-Dr Hatchback

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Other Makes

59 Plate SEAT Leon 1.9 TDi S Emocion 5-Door Hatchback

Finished in Red Metallic with a Black Cloth interior, 11,300 miles. £13,495

51 Plate BMW 3 Series 2.5 325Ci 2-Dr Convertible

Finished in Titanium Silver Metallic with a Grey Leather interior, 44,300 miles. £9,795

2008 Mitsubishi Lancer 1.6 Equipe 4-Door Saloon

Finished in Metallic Gunmetal Grey, Manual, 21,800 miles. was £7,995* **Now £6,995***

55 Plate Peugeot 407 SW 2.0 HDi 136 SE (Luxury)

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56 Plate Honda Jazz 1.4i-DSI SE 5-Door Hatchback

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2006 Fiat Punto 1.2 Active 5-Door Hatchback

Finished in Astral Blue Metallic with a Black Cloth interior, 41,430 miles. £4,495*

Citroen Berlingo 2.0 HDi Multispace Desire 5-Door Estate

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2006 Ford Ka 1.3 3-Door Hatchback

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52 Plate Toyota Yaris 1.0 16v VVT-i GS 5-Dr

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*Correct at time of going to press.

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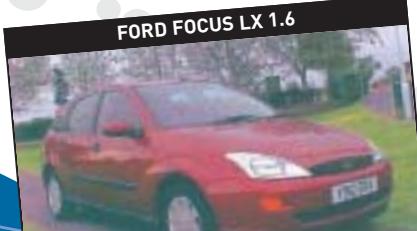
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0% APR Finance

08 Plate Ford Ka



Cash Price	Deposit	Balance to Finance	34 Monthly Payments
£4499	£1349.70	£3149.30	£87.48
First Instalment	Final Instalment	Total Amount Payable	0% APR
£87.48	£87.50	£4499	

0% APR Finance

02 Plate Ford Focus 4dr



Cash Price	Deposit	Balance to Finance	22 Monthly Payments
£3399	£99	£3300.00	£137.50
First Instalment	Final Instalment	Total Amount Payable	0% APR
£137.50	£137.50	£3399	

0% APR Finance

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Cash Price	Deposit	Balance to Finance	22 Monthly Payments
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156, 1.6 T Sport Turismo Sportwagon (6 months Warranty), ag02xu, twin air bags, side air bags, curtain airbags, abs, adjustable steering column, power steering, stability control, air conditioning, electric windows, steering wheel audio controls, rear wash/wipe, metallic paintwork, alcantara leather, height adjustable seat, rear headrests, lumbar support, alloy wheels, aluminium silver, 63000 miles, £2995, Maidstone, 01622 842299 (TRADE)

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BRAVO, Multjet Active, 2008, black metallic, 25000 miles, £7700, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

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BRAVO, Active, 2007, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels diesel electric windows immobiliser power steering, 30000 miles, £12000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

BRAVO, Multijet Dynamic Eco, 2010, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels blue/blue car kit cd player climate control electric windows power steering, 30000 miles, £16100, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

BRAVO, SX, 1996, central locking electric windows immobiliser, white, 85000 miles, £4000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

BRAVO, 1.9, 2008, black, 55 miles, £13980, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

BRAVO, 2.0, 2008, black, 55 miles, £14000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

FORD, Focus, Style TDCi 110 PS, 2009, abs brakes diesel drivers airbag electric windows front fog lights immobiliser power steering single cd player central locking isofix child seat points remote audio controls, 34373 miles, £9000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

FOCUS, Zetec, 2007, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels cd player central locking drivers airbag electric windows front fog lights immobiliser power steering, 14749 miles, £6500, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

FOCUS, 1.6 TDCi 160 PS, 2009, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels blue/blue car kit cd player climate control diesel electric windows front fog lights immobiliser power steering, 18850 miles, £6000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

FOCUS, 1.4 TDCi 150 Active, 2007, abs brakes air conditioning central locking drivers airbag electric windows front fog lights immobiliser power steering, 12670 miles, £6500, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

FOCUS, 1.6 TDCi 160 PS, 2009, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels blue/blue car kit cd player climate control diesel electric windows front fog lights immobiliser power steering, 13480 miles, £7500, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

FOCUS, 1.4 TDCi 150 Active, 2007, abs brakes air conditioning central locking drivers airbag electric windows front fog lights immobiliser power steering, 12500 miles, £6000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

FOCUS, 1.6 TDCi 160 PS, 2009, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels blue/blue car kit cd player climate control diesel electric windows front fog lights immobiliser power steering, 13480 miles, £7500, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

FOCUS, 1.4 TDCi 150 Active, 2007, abs brakes air conditioning central locking drivers airbag electric windows front fog lights immobiliser power steering, 12500 miles, £6000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

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FOCUS, 1.4 TDCi 150 Active, 2007, abs brakes air conditioning central locking drivers airbag electric windows front fog lights immobiliser power steering, 12500 miles, £6000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

FOCUS, 1.6 TDCi 160 PS, 2009, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels blue/blue car kit cd player climate control diesel electric windows front fog lights immobiliser power steering, 13480 miles, £7500, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

FOCUS, 1.4 TDCi 150 Active, 2007, abs brakes air conditioning central locking drivers airbag electric windows front fog lights immobiliser power steering, 12500 miles, £6000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

FOCUS, 1.6 TDCi 160 PS, 2009, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels blue/blue car kit cd player climate control diesel electric windows front fog lights immobiliser power steering, 13480 miles, £7500, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

FOCUS, 1.4 TDCi 150 Active, 2007, abs brakes air conditioning central locking drivers airbag electric windows front fog lights immobiliser power steering, 12500 miles, £6000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

FOCUS, 1.6 TDCi 160 PS, 2009, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels blue/blue car kit cd player climate control diesel electric windows front fog lights immobiliser power steering, 13480 miles, £7500, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

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2005 53 Reg SAAB 9-3 1.9T Vector Sport, 4 Doors, Manual, Saloon, Petrol, 114,000 miles, Metallic grey, Cruise control, Full Electric Pack, Alloy wheels, Immobiliser, ABS, Sports seats, Reverse parking aid, Anti theft system, Child locks, Leather seat trim, Service indicator, Navigation system, Multi function steering wheel, Space saver spare wheel, Alarm, Body coloured bumpers, PAS, Air conditioning, CD, Climate Control, Full Service History. Fully integrated Navigation system, Mobile phone, Bluetooth connection, Business Pack, 6 gearbox..... **NOW £2,295**

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PROPERTY NEWS

Estate agents welcome new licensing scheme

A NEW licensing scheme for estate agents is to be launched, which experts say will lead to a rise in standards in the business.

According to the National Association of Estate Agents (NAEA), most estate agents are reputable, but anyone can start up as an estate agent in the UK without qualifications or formal checks.

The new scheme was described by housing minister, Grant Shapps, as a symbolic moment, while the NAEA said it hopes the scheme will represent honesty for agents.

The launch of the scheme means an estate agent will need to have the necessary level of professional indemnity insurance, be bound by the NAEA agents' rules of conduct and commit to undertaking 12 hours of training on the latest developments every year.

Those who are found to be breaking the rules could end up at a tribunal, or thrown out of the scheme.

Peter Bolton King, chief executive of the NAEA, said: "From today, estate agency in the UK is a two-tiered industry – those agents who are licensed and those who are not.

"I think the public will welcome the distinction, and I believe that this move will raise standards across the industry."

Elderly forced to sell up to pay for care homes

SOME 20,000 pensioners across the UK are being forced to sell their homes to pay for residential care every year.

According to a recent survey, the number of elderly property owners having to sell up so they can go into a care home stands at almost 60 per day; a third of those funding their own care end up without a house. This is an increase of 17 per cent since 2005.

The recent cuts to local authority budgets mean that this situation is unlikely to improve. Furthermore, FirstStop Advice states that care home fees have risen by more than 20 per cent over the past five years – making the current average £25,896.

Those who don't have savings or property to sell get their care paid for by the state.

This has sparked anger among many, who argue that the system is unfair and makes lifelong saving pointless, as well as meaning that families won't receive any inheritance.



Make most of interest rates, before they rise

■ BY NICK AMES

INTEREST rates on mortgages are set to increase, and cheap mortgages are unlikely to stick around for long, according to the consultancy Ducalian.

Research by Sainsbury's Home Insurance revealed that the cost of running a home had fallen by almost 14 per cent in the past two years, and now stands at around £8,059 a year.

Timothy Lambert, head of consulting at Ducalian, said that most people would be rather surprised by the figures.

However, he said: "Lots of local authorities have frozen council tax and some boroughs such as Hammersmith & Fulham have actually lowered them, year on year."

Mr Lambert went on to say that the main reason was that mortgages were currently cheap for many, which "vastly sways" the statistics.

"But rates will rise over the course of the next few years as interest rates rise and cheaper products that run for a fixed period come to an end," he warned.

The annual cost of running a home, estimated by Sainsbury's Home Insurance, equates to £155 a week, or £22.08 a day, per household.

In 2008, household expenses were found to be almost £1,300 higher, at £9,324 a year.

Meanwhile the market continues to be uncertain.

Housebuilder Taylor Wimpey said it had experienced a homebuyer slowdown, as a result of the Government's spending cuts, which it claims has deterred potential buyers.

Its comments echo those of Persimmon, who said there was little evidence of the traditional autumn period, which usually sees families flock to new housing developments as the school summer holidays end.



However, Taylor Wimpey, which is the UK's second largest homebuilder by volume, said it expects annual profit at the higher end of estimates, boosted by "stable" trading, and an agreement reached on a new £950 million credit facility.

The company, which was formed by the merger of Taylor Woodrow and George Wimpey, said: "We expect to enter 2011 with a

solid order book, and we remain focused on our strategy of maximising margins and returns, rather than looking to accelerate volume growth."

Many housebuilders have expressed their concern that the ongoing lack of mortgage availability, particularly to first-time buyers, continues to be a "major obstacle" and is holding back the recovery of the housing market.

It's curtains for wasted energy

RESIDENTS of period properties are being told they can reduce their energy bills by closing their curtains or shutters at dusk.

Researchers claim it could be as effective as fitting double glazing and lead to significant savings.

The World Heritage Trust has been using thermal imaging cameras to show residents of old and new homes how best to cut their bills.

The project has demonstrated a traditional, decidedly low-tech approach can be highly effective.

Windows with the shutters and curtains

closed show up in the images in a deep blue colour, demonstrating little heat is escaping.

Windows with the shutters and curtains open burn bright, in oranges and reds, showing that much more heat and money is being wasted.

The team behind the project said other traditional techniques were valuable too, and anyone living in a period property should not overlook the importance of draught excluders.

Chiara Ronchini, energy efficiency officer for the trust, said: "We know that improving energy efficiency in historic buildings is very

important if we're to reduce carbon emissions and alleviate fuel poverty.

"There are issues, of course, with historic buildings, but they are so well designed that they just need a little push to make sure that they are performing as well as the most modern buildings.

"The thermal imaging exercise really proved that very simple measures, like closing shutters at night or using full-length curtains, can have a dramatic effect and make a dramatic improvement on the amount of heat being lost through the windows."

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£195,000**KENNINGTON**

Vaulted ceiling in the dining rm is a feature of this extended semi. 110ft rear gdn, off rd pkg, three beds, large sitting rm, kit, utility, clkrm, bathrm.

£193,995**CHICHESTER CLOSE**

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Price Guide £165,000 to £180,000**SOUTH ASHFORD**

17ft sq. workshop and vehicle access with this attractive three bed semi. Sitting rm, large kit, diner, GF clkrm, bathrm, DG, gas htg, must be seen.

£159,995**SINGLETON**

Det coach house style apart, garage, 2 beds, kitchen with appliances, bathroom, n/s heating, d/g, well presented, must be seen.

£139,995**CHALLOCK**

Village location, ideal for M2 & M20, three bed (mstr e/s), clkrm, kit, sit rm, bthrm, large conserv, good size plot, DG, gas (lpg) htg, gge, parking.

£249,995**SOUTH WILLESBOROUGH**

Don't miss out last one left brand new one bed GF flat, garden and allocated parking, sitting rm, kit, bathroom DG, gas htg. Must be seen.

£110,000**LETTINGS****WILLESBOROUGH**

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£995pcm (u/f)**GODINTON PARK**

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£625pcm (u/f)**CENTRAL ASHFORD**

Spacious 2/3 bed flat. Large ent hall, kitchen, 2 large bedrooms, study/3rd bedroom, bathroom. This property is set over three floors.

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2 bed first floor flat. Good sized rooms, lounge, kitchen, bath with shower. Walking distance of town.

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Many more properties available at www.sjmproperty.co.uk



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Covering Kent, SE London, Sussex, Surrey, Hampshire, Wiltshire, Isle of Wight & West Country

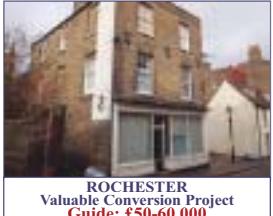
Day One - The Rose Bowl, Southampton - Tuesday, 14th December - 11am

Day Two - The Ramada Hotel & Resort, Maidstone - Wednesday, 15th December - 11am.

Day Three - The Hilton Brighton Metropole - Thursday, 16th December - 11am.

Day Three - The Legacy Plymouth International - Thursday, 16th December - 3pm.

Day Four - The Penventon Park Hotel, Redruth - Friday, 17th December - 11am.



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RODMERSHAM, SITTINGBOURNE
Six Acre Site with Range of Buildings
Guide: £200-210,000



SITTINGBOURNE
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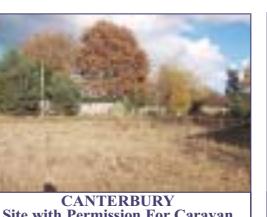
SITTINGBOURNE
Individual Building Plot
Guide: £115-125,000



RAMSGATE
Residential/Commercial Investment
Guide: £110-115,000



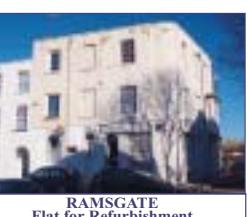
MARGATE
Two Bedroom Terrace House
Guide: £80-85,000



CANTERBURY
Site with Permission For Caravan
Guide: £100-120,000



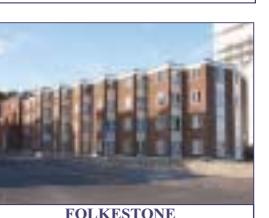
MARGATE
Two Residential Units with Potential
Guide: £100-115,000



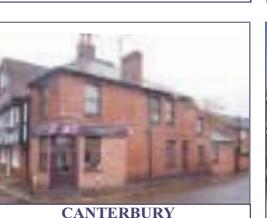
RAMSGATE
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Guide: £25-30,000



SHEERNESS
Vacant Large Pub
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Two Flats for Investment
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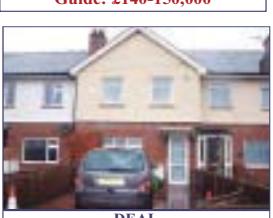
CANTERBURY
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DOVER
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WESTGATE-ON-SEA
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DEAL
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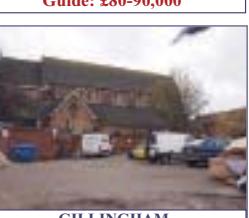
CANTERBURY
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RAMSGATE
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CHATHAM
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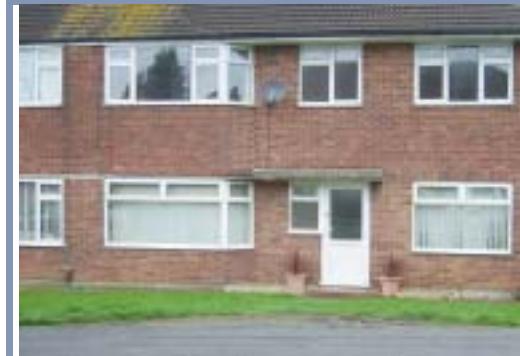
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Parents Consortium: Dartford/Gravesham coverage.

Contact Alan Milner (01322 668501) or e-mail milner@parentsconsortium.co.uk

Sunrise Parents Advisory Committee: Tonbridge/Tunbridge Wells/Sevenoaks coverage.

Contact Peter Nicholls (01892 530330) or e-mail peter.nicholls@vawk.org.uk

Includes us 2: Ashford/Shepway/Dover coverage.

Contact Gillian Wells (07970 928425) or Debs Aspland (07832 196 956)

both on IncludesUs2@hotmail.com.

Interviews 16 December.

For Us 2: Canterbury/Thanet/Swale coverage.

Contact Ivan O'Reilly (01227 741748), or e-mail Ivan.O'Reilly@childrensociety.org.uk.

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For more information please contact Miss Kate Sheppard Home Manager on 01304 821 331 or Email kate@abbeyhealthcare.org.uk

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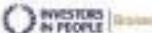
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Closing date: Friday 3 December 2010
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Rhiannon Wragg, Advertisement Director, Archant Life South East,
email rhiannon.wragg@archant.co.uk

Closing date for applications: 3rd December 2010

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You may also wish to download an application and job description from our vacancy page on the school's website: www.sirjosephwilliamson.medway.sch.uk

Closing Date: Wednesday, 8th December 2010



with Business and Enterprise status

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To apply please submit with your application to Kay Allen, HR Manager, a letter outlining your reasons for wanting this position, together with evidence of why you are suitable for the role, and how you have developed your skills in previous roles in readiness for this position.

Further details and application forms may be obtained from our HR Manager by email at k.allen@thamesview.kent.sch.uk or by telephoning 01474 566552 ext 8081120.

Closing Date: 10th December 2010 at 10.00 am

Interviews: 16th December 2010

CVs without an application form will not be accepted.

Appointment to this post is subject to a criminal background check via the disclosure procedure.

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23 November 2010

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CLOSING DATE: Wednesday 8 December 2010

MidKent College is working in partnership with RBLI Employment Solutions to support individuals who have a disability or health condition in the application, interview and employment with the college. If you would like any further information regarding RBLI, or require assistance with your application process then please contact RBLI on 0800 783 1144 or visit their website www.rbli.co.uk for information, advice and guidance.

The College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of employment is subject to a Criminal Records Bureau check in accordance with the College procedure.

Application forms and further details are available from www.midkent.ac.uk. Alternatively, please e-mail job.applications@midkent.ac.uk. For individuals without access to e-mail or the internet please call the HR department on 01634 383102 (24 hour answer machine). In all communication with the College please quote the appropriate job title and reference number.

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For job description and application form please contact:

Jo Edwards

East Kent Medical Services Ltd, The Spencer Wing, QEQM Hospital,

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Closing date: 9 December 2010.

Interview date: Early in January 2011.

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Name of Premises: **The Stour Leisure Centre,
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Applicant: Mrs Sharon Birch**

The application and plan of the premises may be inspected at the address below during normal office hours. Any person may give notice in writing of an objection to the renewal of the grant of approval, together with the reasons, within 21 days from the date of this newspaper. Objections should be sent to the address below.

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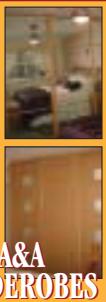
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TEST: Leon Camier is gearing up for a second season in World series

Camier steps up return to fitness Down Under

MOTORSPORT

LEON Camier steps up his preparations for his second season in the World Superbike Championship (WSB) when he takes part in a three-day test in Australia this week.

The factory Aprilia rider from Ashford has made the trip to the Phillip Island circuit to develop his bike ahead of the opening round of the 2011 season Down Under in February.

The 24-year-old has spent most of the off-season recovering from a broken wrist sustained in the German round of the WSB at the Nurburgring in September. Since the accident the former British

champion has been aiding his recovery by training alongside professional cyclists Tom Boonen, Stuart O'Grady and Richie Porte in Monaco.

With only one test session under his belt following the crash, Camier is looking forward to stepping up his return to fitness in Australia and expects to remain in the country after the test to train with Moto GP star and close friend Casey Stoner.

Camier said: "We've got a lot of things to try, which is encouraging. We want to con-

tinue work on ergonomics so I can see if I can get more comfortable on the bike, we should have a new tank and a couple of other parts to test. We're going to look at electronics because although we made a step forward at the last test, there's more to come. I've also got some new things with my riding that I've been trying with Keith Code at the California Superbike School that I want to continue to work on.

"If we get to a point where we're happy and we've found a good way forward, then I'll start to push for lap times. I don't really use tests to go for one or two quick laps, I'm there to work on overall race pace."

CYCLO-CROSS



VICTORY: Ian Field won on his UK return

Field claims win

CYCLO-CROSS rider Ian Field returned to the National Trophy with a relatively comfortable victory in Southampton.

The 24-year-old from Ashford moved to Belgium, one of the sport's strongholds, last year to concentrate on his career. Cyclo-cross is a form of bike racing consisting of short laps on a variety of surfaces with obstacles which require competitors to carry their bikes over before remounting.

Despite competing in the third round of the World Cup in Koksijde, Belgium on Saturday, Field returned to the UK in convincing style at the fourth round of the National Trophy, winning by nine seconds from series leader Jody Crawforth.

He said: "It was a surprise to get away so easily, but it's a weird feeling. When I come to race in the UK it's a no-win situation, apart from getting the UCI points which will help when I go back to Belgium."

The south coast was one of the few areas in the country to avoid the snow last weekend, but the ground on the tough course was very hard.

Field made a fast start to take control from the outset, forming a leading pack with Crawforth and Kris Lapere. Paul Oldham and Thomas Vernaect later caught them, with the latter hitting the front on lap three.

Field showed no weariness from his exploits in Koksijde, where he finished 37th, and regained the lead on lap four. He showed his class to ride away from the disintegrating pack and was not troubled again before the end.

Next up is a race in Overijse, Belgium, on December 12.

Follow all the action at the weekend with **Kent Football Live**
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CRUSING THROUGH: Try scorers Dan Brown (left) and JJ Murray ensured a comfortable win as Ashford progressed to the fourth round of the Junior Vase



Pictures: IOR KUPCO

Cup run will prove key to league hopes, says Walsh

RUGBY

■ BY TOM HOWARD

Croydon 21 Ashford 38

ASHFORD progressed to the fourth round of the Junior Vase with a fine attacking display at Croydon on Saturday.

Pete Walsh's side didn't have it all their own way in Surrey, but after a dogged first-half, their clinical finishing stumped the visitors and they cruised into the next round of the competition.

The home side pushed Ashford's defence hard in the opening minutes and opened the scoring with a successfully converted penalty. But the lead was short-lived as JJ Murray levelled the scores with a penalty minutes later.

Croydon continued to pose Ashford problems and the hosts scored the first try of the afternoon when they pushed over the line from a quick tap penalty. Once again the visitors responded and took a 10-8 lead into the break with a try from fly-half Murray.

Ashford dominated the second-half as

towards success in the league.

He said: "To get promotion from Kent 1 is the main priority this season, but to have a cup run is great for the club. One thing the cup games help us with is consistency. We are playing games week in week out and this helps to build the positive momentum we have gathered so far this season."

"I'm a big England rugby fan and visit Twickenham a lot so to be able to play there, obviously not in front of an 80,000 sell out, would be fantastic and a dream come true."

"Our fitness is really showing this year and it's paying off. We are able to run teams ragged due to us being fitter and quicker at the breakdowns. The great thing is we are still able to go up a couple more gears. There is definitely more to come from Ashford."

They will hope to close the gap to Kent 1 leaders Sittingbourne on Saturday, when they return to league action with a trip to Gillingham Anchorians.

Back from injury but Lisa needs trouble-free winter

ATHLETICS

■ BY TOM HOWARD

WORLD silver medallist Lisa Dobriskey has returned to full training but insists staying injury free is her main priority this winter.

The highly-rated 1500-metre runner from Ashford endured an injury-plagued season, which included suffering a back injury that hampered her preparations for the European Championships and a thigh problem that ruled her out of the Commonwealth Games.

Dobriskey, who finished a disappointing fourth at the European Championships in August, is well on the way to recovering from the thigh injury and has stepped up training in preparation for next season. After a season disrupted by injury, she is hoping for a smooth winter to enable her to fully attack the 2011 campaign.

She told Yourashford: "Consistency will be the key to me having a good winter. The past few winters have been fragmented through injury and I feel my fitness has suffered because of this. Having a good winter is crucial if I want to perform well in the summer. It is where the foundations are laid both in terms of overall fitness and correcting any structural weaknesses."

"I'm very fortunate to be supported by such a great medical team in Loughborough. I have worked with them for a very long time, so they



CONSISTENCY: Lisa Dobriskey has endured an injury-plagued season and will be taking things slowly over the winter

really know and understand my body and needs. I am generally quite a high maintenance athlete and have a lot of physiotherapy throughout most of the year. In a normal week I would see the physio between three and five times a week and two hours' general massage in addition."

The 26-year-old has not set any plans for making a competitive return on the track,

although she may take part in some cross-country events to boost her fitness levels.

She said: "I have my eye on a couple of cross-country, but it really depends how my training goes and whether I get any niggles which a cross-country may make worse. Any cross-country this year would only be up until Christmas though, after that I will be targeting the indoor season."

LEAGUE TABLE

(Not including midweek games)

KENT LEAGUE PREMIER DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	Gd	Pt
1 Herne Bay	13	7	5	1	+10	26
2 VCD Athletic	11	7	3	1	+7	24
3 Beckenham Town	11	7	2	2	+9	23
4 Erith Town	13	6	4	3	+8	22
5 Greenwich Borough	11	7	0	4	+17	21
6 Hythe Town	9	6	1	2	+10	19
7 Sevenoaks Town	12	5	1	6	-3	16
8 Deal Town	12	5	1	6	-7	16
9 Tunbridge Wells	9	4	3	2	+9	15
10 Norton Sports	11	2	6	3	-1	12
11 Fisher	11	3	2	6	-6	11
12 Corinthian	11	3	2	6	-8	11
13 Erith & Belvedere	8	3	1	4	-2	10
14 Holmesdale	13	2	4	7	-9	10
15 Lordswood	11	2	2	7	-7	8
16 Sporting Bengal United	12	1	1	10	-27	4

KENT LEAGUE DIVISION ONE EAST

1 APM	8	5	3	0	+17	18
2 Staplehurst & Monarchs	9	4	3	2	+8	15
3 Bromley Green	7	4	2	1	+12	14
4 Bredhurst Juniors	7	4	3	0	+8	14
5 Sheerness East	8	4	2	2	+7	14
6 Premier	6	4	0	2	+5	12
7 Offord Utd	7	3	3	1	+2	12
8 Milton & Fulston	12	3	3	6	-10	12
9 New Romney	8	2	2	4	-3	8
10 Shepway United	7	2	2	3	-5	8
11 University of Kent	5	1	1	3	-5	4
12 Larkfield & New Hythe	9	0	3	6	-11	3
13 Kennington	7	0	1	6	-25	1

FIXTURES

FA Vase: Leiston v **Hythe Town**; Kent County League Division One East: Premier v **Bromley Green**; **Kennington** v Larkfield & New Hythe

Hythe make up for lost time as Cass double sees off Erith

FOOTBALL

Erith Town 0 Hythe Town 2

BRENDON Cass bagged a brace as Hythe Town made up valuable ground on all their rivals for the Kent League title.

Lengthy cup runs have left Scott Porter's side playing catch-up on the rest of the division, but they made the most of their game at Erith Town beating the weather on Saturday. With only one other game played, leaders Herne Bay dropped two points at Holmesdale and victory lifted Hythe to within seven points of top spot with four games in hand.

The visitors took time to find their feet and were thankful Michael Power drove a shot just wide with Erith's first good chance. Hythe went on to enjoy the clearest opportunities and took the lead on 33 minutes, when Cass flicked Greg Smith's cross into the top corner.

Erith were on the ropes as chances came and went either side of half-time, but the visitors were only assured of victory when Cass scored his second 14 minutes from time. Lee Winfield's corner was not properly cleared and when the ball came back into the area Cass was on hand to score his 13th goal of the season.

Hythe return to cup action this weekend with a tough trip to Suffolk for an FA Vase third round tie with Leiston. Both teams enjoyed good runs in the FA Cup, with the Ridgeons Premier League side knocking out Folkestone Invicta before taking Dartford to a replay.



BRACE: Brendon Cass scored two goals for Hythe

A place in the last 32, when the competition becomes a nationwide draw, awaits the winners.

CRICKET



CAPTAIN: James Tredwell picked up seven wickets

Tredwell skipper England's second string to first win

KENT off-spinner James Tredwell captained the England Performance Programme XI to a 125-run win against Queensland Academy this week.

Tredwell, from Ashford, led the side in their first competitive game Down Under, which included several Test members in Eoin Morgan, Chris Tremlett and Ajmal Shahzad.

Batting first, England's second string declared on 447 for 6 with Somerset's James Hildreth the star, hitting an unbeaten 206. Morgan hit 71 and Craig Kieswetter 65, while Shahzad weighed in with 52 not out.

Queensland registered 367 in reply, with Tredwell performing well, claiming 3 for 95, while Liam Plunkett also bagged three wickets. England again scored well with the bat, reaching 284 for 4 before Tredwell called the batsmen in and setting Queensland 373 to win the game. Yorkshire's Adam Lyth hit 106 and Kieswetter a quick-fire 63 in just 47 balls.

Tredwell made the most of a deteriorating pitch at the Allan Border Field in Brisbane, although the home side looked to be coasting at 115 for 1 until a middle order collapse. The Kent man found the large crack running down the pitch to remove Glen Batticciotto on his way to figures of 4 for 83 as Queensland were bowled out for 237.

Tredwell and the England Performance Programme move on to Perth where they will play Retravision Warriors on Friday, followed by Western Australia on December 7.

CRICKET

Kent trio in IPL bid

THREE Kent players have put their names forward to be included in next year's Indian Premier League.

Simon Cook, Joe Denly and Darren Stevens have all asked to be put on the list for the Twenty20 competition that will eventually be narrowed down before going to an auction in January.

If Denly, Stevens or Cook were picked by one of the Indian franchise teams, it would mean missing the start of the season with Kent, although only a handful of English-based cricketers have been picked in the last three years.

Skipper Rob Key has previously put his name forward in the last two years, but it's believed he has not done so for next year's tournament.



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